FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East & North Africa

Vol V No 052 *15 March 1979*

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

PFLP-GC Issues Statement on Mideast Peace Proposals A 1
'Arafat Says Palestinian Resistance Received Israeli Warning A 1
[London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 14 Mar]
PFLP-General Command Notes Prisoner Exchange With Israel A 1

ARABIAN PENINSULA

KUWAIT

Oil Minister Says Oil Prices To Be Reviewed Monthly C 1
Paper Says UAE, Qatar To Increase Oil Prices C 1
UN Delegate Comments on Peace Treaty Effects C 1
Peace Treaty Reportedly Contains 'Secret Agreements' on Oil C 1
Editorial Foresees Egypt's Failure as 'Arab Policeman' C 2
[AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM 12 Mar]

OMAN

PFLO Spokesman Says Egyptians Replace Iranian Forces C 3
[Beirut AN-NAHAR 13 Mar]

SAUDI ARABIA

'UKAZ Comments on Carter's Mideast Peace Efforts [13 Mar] C 4

UAE

Bahraini Foreign Minister Makes Statement, Departs C 5
Arab League's Riyad Departs for Cairo at End of Visit C 5
Foreign Ministry Official Meets With Iranian Ambassador C 6
President Receives Romanian Deputy Prime Minister C 6

YEMEN--PDRY

Forces Begin Withdrawal Process From North Yemen C 6

YEMEN--YAR

Cabinet Briefed on Progress of Arab Committees on Yemen C 6

EGYPT

Prime Minister Receives Message From Vance D 1
Draft Peace Treaty Amendments, Interpretations Explained D 1

Khalil Makes Statement on Peace Agreement D 3
Foreign Ministry Official Discusses Peace Prospects D 4
AL-AKHBAR Criticizes Rejectionists, Moscow Radio D 6
Economic, Military Requirements To Be Reported D 6
Chief of Staff Inspects Western Military Area D 7
Arab League Secretary General Arrives in Cairo D 7
Mubarak Returns From Sudan, Saudi Arabia D 7
Leaves for Europe D 7

IRAQ

Progressive Front Attacks Arab Communist Parties E 1
Romanian Foreign Minister Arrives in Baghdad E 7
Meets Planning Minister E 7
Meets Trade Minister E 7
Oil Cooperation E 7
Andrei, Hammadi Meeting E 7
Andrei Departs E 8
Foreign Minister Receives Former PLO Chief E 8
Baghdad Resolutions Must Be Applied to As-Sadat E 8
Paper Calls for Confronting Egyptian-Israeli Moves E 9

JORDAN

King Husayn Reiterates Jordanian Stand on Overall Peace F 1
Crown Prince Hassan Discusses West Bank Situation F 1
[London THE GUARDIAN 14 Mar]
Husayn Receives Message From U.S. President Carter F 3
PLO Delegation Arrives in Amman for Talks F 3

LEBANON

Nationalists Issue Statement on Egyptian-Israeli Pact G 1
Forces Command Issues Statement on Army Deployment [VOL] G 1
Report on Prime Minister al-Huss' Activities 15 Mar G 1
Weekly Cabinet Meeting Reported 14 Mar G 2

SYRIA

President al-Asad Receives PLO's Military Department Chief H 1
Government Informs Lebanon of Preparedness To Withdraw Forces H 1
[Amman AR-RA'Y 12 Mar]
Egypt's Acceptance of U.S. Proposals Viewed As Capitulatory H 1

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

Papers Score Moroccan Statement on Right of Pursuit I 1
Council of Ministers Discusses Government Tasks I 2
Paper Sees Morocco Brandishing 'Specter of War' I 2
[EL MOUDJAHID 9-10 Mar]
Protocol on Technical Assistance Signed With USSR I 4

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives PDRY Defense Minister I 4
Message From Triopli-Based Egyptian Body to Al-Qadhdhafi I 4
Tripoli Claims As-Sadat To Commit 'Ultimate Crime' I 5
Staff Major Jallud Receives Ahmad Jibril I 6
Ambassador to Chad Leaves Aboard French Plane I 6
JANA Cites Paris Paper on Egyptian Forces at Border I 6
Romanian Deputy Premier Arrives in Tripoli I 7
Al-Mabruk, Patan Meeting I 7
Ash-Sharif, Patan Meeting I 7
Al-Muntassir, Patan Meeting I 8

MOROCCO

Foreign Minister Boucetta Holds Press Conference I 8
Government Reports Victory in Battle With 'Mercenaries' I 12

WESTERN SAHARA

Saharan Foreign Minister Interviewed on Situation I 12

ISRAEL

Begin Makes Statement at End of Cabinet Session N 1
Further Details on Cabinet Vote N 1
Weizman Departs for United States, Makes Statement N 2
Energy Minister Moda'i Explains Change in Position N 2
Parties React to Cabinet Approval of Proposals N 3
MAFDAL on Autonomy, Treaty N 3
MAPAM on Vote N 4
Democratic Movement Support of Agreement N 5
Shay Welcome of Cabinet Approval N 5
Israeli Correspondents Interview Egypt's Butrus Ghali N 5
Further Details N 5
HA'ARETZ: Early Elections Considered After Peace Treaty [14 Mar] N 6
Press on Peace Approval N 7
Arabs Comment Favorably on Peres' Knesset Speech, Agreement ['AL HAMISHMAR 14 Mar] N 8
Al 'Arish Mayor Pleased N 9
West Bank Mayor's Comments N 9
Israeli Soldier Exchanged for Palestinian Prisoners N 10
Protest Over Exchange N 10
Problem of 'Ofra Settlers' Arms Being Investigated N 10
Settlers Uncooperative Toward Authorities N 11
Further Details N 11
Disturbances Continue in West Bank, Officials Detained N 11
Roadblock in Jordan Valley N 11

IRAN

More Reportage on Events, Incidents of 14 March R 1
Radio Commentary on U.S. 'Plots' R 1

Oil, Gas Workers' Declaration R 2
Turkish Statement on CENTO R 3
Gas Workers Await Orders R 3
Petrochemical Director's Activities R 3
Tabriz University R 3
Tabriz Taxi Drivers R 4
Military Theatrical Presentation R 4
Shiraz Education Department R 4
Representative to Gorgan R 4
Agreements With U.S. Institute Abrogated R 4
Japanese Oil-Purchasing Agreement R 5
ELF Message for Khomeyni R 5
Reportage on Events, Incidents of 15 March R 5
Copper Company Director R 5
Property of Shah's Family R 5
March Denied R 6
Foreign Minister Tenders Resignation to Bazargan [AFP] R 6
Tehran Paper Says 250 Detainees Released on Bail [INA] R 6

SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

Amin Interviewed by DER SPIEGEL Correspondent S 1
Part I S 1
Part II S 2
Rebel Front Issues Statement on Fighting S 6

INDIA

Reportage on Visit of USSR Premier Kosygin S 7
Agreements Signed S 7
Details of Agreements S 7
Kosygin Hosts Farewell Banquet S 8
Kosygin Comments, Ends Visit S 9
TIMES OF INDIA Commentary S 9
Vajpayee Interviewed on Territorial Dispute With PRC S 10
U.S. Plans To Set Up 'Fifth Fleet' in Indian Ocean S 10
[PATRIOT 11 Mar]

PAKISTAN

Ziaul Haq Gives Interview to Saudi Paper ['UKAZ 11 Mar] S 11

SRI LANKA

Government Bans Political Demonstrations S 16

PFLP-GC ISSUES STATEMENT ON MIDEAST PEACE PROPOSALS

LD141958 Tripoli JANA in English 1705 GMT 14 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 14 JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY--The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, issued a statement on the dangeous events taking place in the Arab nation and the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary conspiracy against the Arab cause carried out by the defeated Egyptian president. The front expressed the necessity to be aware of and to confront the results of the suspicious visit by the American president which aimed at the consolidation of the Zionist occupation in the Arab land. The front stressed the necessity to stick to their guns in order to foil all plots and destroy hotbeds of conspiracies against the Arab nation.

The General Command pledged to continue the revolutionary course based on the faith that armed struggle and popular war are the only means to achieve the complete liberation of Palestine.

'ARAFAT SAYS PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE RECEIVED ISRAELI WARNING

LD141615 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 March 79 pp 1, 2 LD

[ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau report]

[Excerpt] Beirut--PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat declared that the Palestinian resistance has received an Israeli threat through a European country he did not name. He said that Israel demanded a cease-fire in southern Lebanon as of 1000 and that this came into effect as of 1200 [13 March].

'Arafat was addressing an extraordinary meeting of the Permanent General Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress yesterday afternoon, which was held at the PLO's request to discuss the situation resulting from President Jimmy Carter's visit to the area. 'Arafat said: "They have sent to me through a European country saying they want to create problems, and today Israeli planes flew over Beirut." Continuing, 'Arafat said: "Today (yesterday), the Jews also asked for a cease-fire as of 1000. We stopped firing as of 1200." 'Arafat threatened that the resistance would reply to any attacks on it and said: "Whoever strikes at us will receive two blows for one." The Palestinian leader called for an oil ban on Egypt in the event that it signs any agreement with Israel, and warned that the PLO "will deal with any Arab country that supplies oil to As-Sadat the same way it deals with As-Sadat."

Firing stopped in southern Lebanon at midday yesterday, but the Palestinian WAFA news agency said that Israeli and rightist shelling in southern Lebanon resumed at 1600.

PFLP-GENERAL COMMAND NOTES PRISONER EXCHANGE WITH ISRAEL

JN141249 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Mar 79 JN

[Excerpts] Beirut, 14 March--The PFLP-General Command has declared that the operation of exchanging prisoners with the Zionist enemy that took place in Geneva today confirms the humanitarian inclinations of the Palestinian revolution and the Zionist enemy's extreme malice. In a political statement issued here today, the PFLP-General Command said: "The holy war against the enemy will continue and we will not lay down our arms until we return to Jerusalem, Haifa, Jaffa, and every part of Palestine." The statement added that the conferences of steadfastness and the Baghdad summit were a clear indication of the rejection by the sweeping majority of the Arabs of the Camp David agreements. Furthermore, the Iraqi-Syrian Joint National Action Charter constitutes an historic pan-Arab reply to treason in our Arab homeland.

KUWAIT

OIL MINISTER SAYS OIL PRICES TO BE REVIEWED MONTHLY

JN151043 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0915 GMT 15 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 15 March--Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali Khalifah as-Sabah has declared that the additional increase of $1.20 per barrel which Kuwait added to the price of Kuwaiti oil as of 20 February 1979 will be reviewed monthly after studying conditions on the markets. He said the price increase scheduled to begin on 1 April will be automatically applied according to the OPEC decision.

In a statement published by the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANSA' today, the Kuwaiti oil minister said that he expects shortages in oil supplies even now that the pumping of Iranian oil resumed earlier this month at an average of 3 million barrels daily.

Shaykh 'Ali added: The major oil-exporting countries will raise oil prices by 3.8 percent on 1 April as was previously decided. This will be the second oil price increase in less than 4 months following a decision by the OPEC ministerial conference held in Abu Dhabi last December. The initial increase in oil prices was 5 percent.

PAPER SAYS UAE, QATAR TO INCREASE OIL PRICES

JN150944 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 15 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 15 March--The newspaper AS-SIYASAH reports that the UAE and Qatar are considering again increasing their oil prices by $1.20 per barrel. The paper expects the two countries to announce this new step within a few days.

UN DELEGATE COMMENTS ON PEACE TREATY EFFECTS

LD141326 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 14 Mar 79 LD

[Excerpts] Abdallah Yaqub al-Bishara, Kuwait's UN delegate and the only Arab member of the UN Security Council, has prediced that Egypt's Arab League membership will be withdrawn if it signs a peace treaty with Israel. Mr al-Bishara had misgivings about the proposed treaty which, according to some reports, is due to be signed next week. In a speech he later made at the UN Security Council, which is debating the situation in the occupied Arab territories, Mr al-Bishara condemned Israel as a protege of war in the region. When asked whether Egypt's Arab League membership will be withdrawn if it signs a separate peace treaty with Israel, Mr al-Bishara recalled that the Baghdad summit had agreed on a number of measures in this respect and that the Arab League had issued an ultimatum to this effect. He said he was confident that the ultimatum will be enforced.

PEACE TREATY REPORTEDLY CONTAINS 'SECRET AGREEMENTS' ON OIL

LD151112 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0717 GMT 15 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait--A Kuwaiti paper said today that the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty which is planned to be signed shortly contains a number of "secret agreements and deals" including the possibility of the use of Egyptian forces to occupy Arab oil fields.

In a dispatch from New York which the paper did not attribute to any source, AL-QABAS said that these secret agreements and deals were part of the proposals presented by U.S. President Carter, and that their acceptance by Egypt and Israel paved the way for the signing of the peace treaty after several months of hindrances. These deals, AL-QABAS notes, include "defensive arrangements and contain emergency plans to prepare Egyptian paratroops to occupy Arab oilfields if necessary." It said that high-level U.S. officials consider the peace treaty "the best guarantee of securing the flow of Arab oil to the West."

EDITORIAL FORESEES EGYPT'S FAILURE AS 'ARAB POLICEMAN'

LD141519 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 12 Mar 79 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "Beyond Signing"]

[Excerpts] Will a peace agreement be signed or not? This has been the big question that people have been asking in their offices and homes and on the telephones.

This bitter and pressing question is still unanswered. Will it be signed or not? There has been amazement and people are now wondering: How can an Egyptian ruler accept such a humiliating signing and thus expose Egyptian and Arab interests to danger and Egypt to a siege?

In the past, we blamed the United States for gambling with its interests in the Arab world because of its association with Israel.

We have always come to the conclusion that the U.S. Zionist lobby dominates the White House whether through elections or control of finance and the media.

But is there a "Zionist lobby" in Cairo to make it turn a blind eye to its interests with the Arabs and Arab interests as a whole? Of course, it is difficult to give an objective answer at this moment. But it appears that eyes in Cairo can no longer see and Cairo's perception is no longer functioning as it now only understands the American language and is driven by the desire to be a policeman or a business agent for the United States in the area.

Otherwise, how would Cairo allow any president, even if he is Carter, to attack the Arabs and insult them? Is it possible or logical for the head of a foreign state to be able to attack all the Arabs from the capital of the biggest Arab state?

In view of this we indeed doubt that Cairo still has any logic or sense of propriety left. As Arabs we may differ, quarrel and fight one another, but this should remain among ourselves. But allowing a foreign head of state speaking from the forum of the Egyptian people's assembly to attack our brothers means that Cairo has reached a state of total separation. The question of whether an agreement will be signed or not will then become irrelevant. The fact is that As-Sadat has plunged into the abyss and, therefore, the answer is known, whether he signs today or at some other time.

Therefore, we would not be exaggerating to say that the alleged "disagreement" between Carter and Israel on the treaty concerns only the magnitude of the political and military role the United States wants to assign to Cairo under the treaty.

Israel looks far ahead and knows that today's Cairo is not the real Cairo. Therefore, it is cautious and trying to restrict the American role intended to be given to Cairo.

The Americans--being hypocrites and realists--of course want the area to have an Arab and Islamic policemen as a cover for the real policeman, namely Israel.

Therefore, the problem is not the question of peace or Palestinian and Arab rights and certainly it is not the question of the priority of Egypt's relations with the Arabs over those with Israel. Rather, we believe that it is a question of Israel's fear of Cairo regaining its "soul," in other words, the Egyptian awakening that is bound to come.

Therefore, the apparent "disagreement" is due to Israel and not to Cairo and the delay in signing is caused by Israel and not Cairo. Israel thinks differently because it is aware of the undercurrents in the area and, consequently, it realizes that Cairo means nothing if it is not Arab. And since Cairo has failed to attract any of the Arabs, especially the Palestinians, to get involved in its game it is bound to fail in the role for which the United States has prepared for it, that is, its role as the Arab policeman in the area.

OMAN

PFLO SPOKESMAN SAYS EGYPTIANS REPLACE IRANIAN FORCES

NC141250 Beirut AN-NAHAR in Arabic 13 Mar 79 p 10 NC

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman, the movement which strongly opposed the regime of Sultan Qabus up to 1975, yesterday held a press conference in Beirut at which it announced that between 5,000 and 7,000 Egyptian soldiers have recently arrived in the sultanate to replace the Iranian forces there.

Speaking at the press conference, Muhammad 'Abdallah Husayn, member of the front's central command and in charge of its foreign relations, affirmed that the Egyptians have taken up positions in Habarut, (Sarafit), and (Hayrun) which were previously manned by the Iranian forces.

He said that the numbers of the Egyptian force are being continuously increased, that they are equipped with aircraft, and that they started to arrive in the sultanate last January.

He said: The front denounces and absolutely rejects this military presence in our country. We reserve our legitimate and just right to resist this military interference and to oppose it by all means, even an armed struggle. He accused the United States and Britain of increasing the military presence in the Sultanate of Oman. He attacked the statement made by U.S. Secretary of Defense Harold Brown on the possibility of U.S. military intervention in the Middle East. He added that the visit of Queen Elizabeth of Britain to the gulf area was a political one aimed at consolidating the British military, economic and political presence in this sensitive area of the world. He said that the front has notified the Arab League secretary general and the Arab foreign ministers at their meeting in Kuwait of the Egyptian military interference in our country. He called on the Arab League to reconsider the membership of Qabus' regime in the Arab League.

Asked to comment on the Omani sultanate statement that it had suppressed the rebels in Dhofar, he said that the Omani authorities had dealt a strong blow to the revolutionaries in 1975 but that we still have military positions in several areas in Dhofar. He added that the front is continuing its military operations against the Omani authorities and the foreign presence in the sultanate.

SAUDI ARABIA

UKAZ COMMENTS ON CARTER MIDEAST PEACE EFFORTS

LD150921 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 13 Mar 79 p 1 LD

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] As expected, the U.S. President's visit to Egypt and Israel has ended in failure. Apparently, the U.S. administration has not yet understood the reality of the Israeli military establishment's mentality that rules Israel on the principles of aggression and usurpation--its main motivator and policy. Israel, as it stands, represents usurpation and aggression. It has expelled the Palestinian people and established on their soil a tool of constant aggression and a cat's-paw to disrupt Arab ranks and paralyze Arab capabilities.

The U.S. administration, which has declared its commitment to the achievement of peace and whose President had actually taken part in this attempt, whether by talks in his country or through his visit to the area, must now more than ever expose the reality of the Zionist presence that represents a blatant aggression against the Arab nation.

But this commitment has collided with the Zionist will that refuses to recognize any of the Palestinian rights. Menahem Begin's announcement at the Cabinet meeting and in the Knesset that he utterly rejects the establishment of a Palestinian state or self-rule shows his adherence to the Zionist plan to annihilate this people and prevent them from achieving any of their legitimate rights which have been guaranteed by international conventions.

If the United States is really serious about reaching peace it must now realize the dangers the Israeli rejection represents. This is because this rejection relies on U.S. support, U.S. arms and U.S. political backing that daily prove that the United States is responsible for Israel and its security and continuing existence.

The Israeli rejection of all these attempts confronts the whole area with grave dangers which the United States must avert in order to prevent an explosion in this vital area. Israel's attitude runs contrary to the course of history. Sooner or later it will pay the price. The Arab nation is determined with the force of the right it is defending to recover its occupied lands in fulfillment of its historical responsibility and commitment. The Palestinian people will establish their independent state on their national soil regardless of what Israel may do. This is the logic of right, justice and peace.

UAE

BAHRAINI FOREIGN MINISTER MAKES STATEMENT, DEPARTS

JN131434 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1250 GMT 13 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 13 March--Bahraini Foreign Minister Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah left Abu Dhabi today following a 2-day visit to the UAE, during which he gave a message to President Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from the Bahraini amir. He was seen off at the airport by his UAE counterpart, senior Foreign Ministry officials and by the UAE charge d'affaires in Muscat.

In a predeparture statement, Minister Al Khalifah said that he brought a message to President Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from his brother the Bahraini amir dealing with their strong bilateral relations and with recent developments in the Arab arena. The Bahraini minister noted that viewpoints were identical between the UAE president and his brother, the Bahraini amir.

He added that bilateral relations and mutual cooperation will continue to develop, thus serving mutual interests.

Referring to his talks with the UAE foreign minister, the Bahraini minister said that they exchanged viewpoints on various regional and Arab issues and that the talks fall within the framework of continuous bilateral cooperation and coordination.

Discussing the current Bahraini moves in the area, he said that these moves are part of the efforts to coordinate stands on current events. He said: We believe that the unified work and the one stand are the best means to meet our pan-Arab and regional responsibilities. He explained that these moves are intended to permit discussion of a number of issues, particularly the current developments in the gulf area and the Arabian Peninsula.

He described his mission in the area as successful and positive, offering hope in the possibility of uniting our ranks.

Replying to a question on talks about the existence of a vacuum in the area, he said: We firmly reject such theories and are confident that any vacuum in this area could only be filled by the area's people themselves. Regional cooperation is the only way to fill any vacuum. He added: Even if such a theory proved correct, this vacuum could only be filled from within this area, not externally.

He concluded that efforts in the area will continue and that the area's leaders will consult among themselves, for current developments require much more time, effort and concentration.

ARAB LEAGUE'S RIYAD DEPARTS FOR CAIRO AT END OF VISIT

JN150759 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0650 GMT 15 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 March--Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad left Abu Dhabi this morning for Cairo at the end of a 2-day visit to the UAE. During his visit, Riyad met with His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, and held talks with UAE Foreign Minister Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi on the current Arab situation and the results of the meetings of the ministerial committee to restore stability and security to the two parts of Yemen. Riyad was seen off at Abu Dhabi airport by Foreign Minister Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi.

FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL MEETS WITH IRANIAN AMBASSADOR

JN121911 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 12 March--Foreign Ministry Under Secretary 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Jarwan met here today with Iranian Ambassador to the UAE Ibrahim Teymuri. They discussed bilateral relations and the means to strengthen them in all fields.

PRESIDENT RECEIVES ROMANIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISER

JN141355 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1315 GMT 14 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 March--In the Al-Butayan Palace today, UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan received Cornel Burtica, Romanian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign trade and international economic cooperation. The meeting was attended by Minister of Economy and Trade Shaykh Sultan ibn Ahmad al-Mu'alla. The Romanian minister said after the meeting that his talks with Shaykh Zayid were very useful and fruitful. He expressed his appreciation of the hospitable welcome accorded him by Shaykh Zayid. He said that he conveyed a verbal message to Shaykh Zayid from President Nicolae Ceausescu. Earlier this morning, Minister of Economy and Trade Al-Mu'alla met with Dr Cornel Burtica. 'Abd ar-Rahman Sa'id Ghanim, under secretary of the Ministry of Trade and Economy, said that the talks concentrated on ways of strengthening relations of friendship and bilateral trade and economic cooperation. A number of joint projects in the fields of petrochemicals, electricity and various industries were studied. He said that the Romanian minister explained the economic situation and various activities in his country. He welcomed UAE investments in Romania. Dr Burtica arrived in Abu Dhabi yesterday evening on a 3-day visit.

YEMEN--PDRY

FORCES BEGIN WITHDRAWAL PROCESS FROM NORTH YEMEN

JN142104 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Aden, 14 March--PDRY Prime Minister 'Ali Nasir Muhammad met in Aden this evening with Maj Gen Ibrahim Mahmud Yunis, chairman of the Arab committee in charge of military supervision between the two parts of Yemen. In a statement to INA, Major General Yunis said that the discussion during the meeting centered on preparations for the withdrawal of the PDRY forces to their original areas. He asserted that the PDRY forces have actually started implementing the withdrawal process.

YEMEN--YAR

CABINET BRIEFED ON PROGRESS OF ARAB COMMITTEES ON YEMEN

JN142043 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Mar 79 JN

[Excerpt] The Cabinet held a regular session at 0900 today under Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani. After reviewing the decisions made at its last session, the Cabinet heard a report from the political committee regarding implementation of the resolutions of the Arab League Council emergency meeting, which was recently held in fraternal Kuwait, through contacts made by the Arab followup committee with officials in the two parts of Yemen. The Cabinet also heard a summary on the progress of the political and military committees entrusted with the tasks of following up on the implementation of what was agreed upon with the Arab followup committee and of preparing for the coming summit, after completing the arrangements pertaining to the cease-fire and the withdrawal of forces to the border between the two parts of Yemen, which will take place within the period set by the Arab League Council resolution.

PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM VANCE

NC14239 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2217 GMT 14 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 14 March--In its Thursday issue, AL-AHRAM reports that Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil received a message today from U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. The message contained a copy of the memorandum that Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin sent to President Jimmy Carter on Israel's agreement to take several measures that President as-Sadat had asked to be implemented in the West Bank and Gaza. These measures would prove Israel's goodwill toward the Palestinian people and make it possible to build confidence.

The paper adds that Egypt had defined these measures as follows:

1. Freedom of assembly and the start of political activity for Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza;

2. The release of Palestinian political detainees;

3. Reunion of Palestinian families by allowing family members living outside the occupied territory to rejoin their families;

4. Abolishment of travel restrictions.

AL-AHRAM says that President Carter informed President as-Sadat during their meeting at Cairo airport yesterday that Menahem Begin had approved these requests and would send a memorandum to President Carter in this regard.

The paper says that an Egyptian legal delegation will leave for Washington within the next few days to take part in formulating the decisions to carry out these measures.

DRAFT PEACE TREATY AMENDMENTS, INTERPRETATIONS EXPLAINED

NC141736 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 14 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 14 March--A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has told MENA that all the additions, amendments and interpretations that have been introduced to the draft peace treaty are consistent with Egypt's position and were made at its request. The source added that this can be clearly seen in several important issues, the most prominent of which are:

1. That which has been agreed upon regarding the exchanged letters appended to the agreement, and which represent a complementary agreement on the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip;

2. The timetable on the establishment of self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza;

3. The interpretations of Article VI of the treaty, which puts Egypt's Arab commitments above any other commitment, and the interpretations of Article IV on the security arrangements in Sinai.

4. The issue of the Sinai oil and Egypt's noncommitment to grant any privileges to Israel on price, quantity and export of oil. This is in addition to some points contained in the annexes of the draft treaty.

The source said that the issue of linkage between the peace treaty and the future of the West Bank and Gaza has assumed legal, political and material form that is represented in the preamble to the draft treaty, in the timetable, and in Egypt's participation in the negotiations on the future of the West Bank and Gaza, which will take place 1 month after the treaty is signed.

The source said that the timetable on the future of the West Bank and Gaza is represented in the following points:

1. Negotiations will take place 1 month after the treaty is signed and will be concluded within a period not to exceed 1 year. In other words, if the treaty is signed next month, the negotiations on Gaza and the West Bank will begin in May.

2. Elections will take place there immediately after the negotiations.

3. The self-rule authority will be formed afterwards. One month after the establishment of self-rule, military rule and the Israeli civil administration will cease to exist in Gaza and the West Bank and the Israeli military forces will withdraw to specific positions on the border.

The source added that this period in the future of the West Bank and Gaza is considered the first stage in which self-rule will be established. A 5-year transitional period will begin afterwards, during which new negotiations will take place to determine the final status of the Palestinian entity in the West Bank and Gaza. The source said that one of the new important elements in the situation is full U.S. participation in all stages of the future negotiations.

The source explained that if the agreement is signed in April, Egypt will assume full sovereignty over 75 percent of the Sinai before the end of this year--from Al-'Arish to Ra's Muhammad. It will also have sovereignty over the oil wells and Al-'Arish town. Withdrawal from the remaining part of Sinai will take place 2 years later.

The source noted that within the framework of the linkage between the Egyptian-Israeli agreement and the future of the West Bank and Gaza, negotiations will take place 1 month after the treaty is signed--in May, if the treaty is signed in April--on the future of the West Bank and Gaza. Representatives of Egypt, Palestine, Israel and the United States will take part in these negotiations.

The source said that Israeli withdrawal from Sinai will begin as soon as the treaty goes into effect when the instruments of ratifications are exchanged. This requires the following steps:

1. Signing the treaty;

2. The approval and ratification of the treaty by the Egyptian people's Assembly and the Israeli Knesset;

3. Exchanging the instruments of ratification at a formal ceremony for this occasion.

The source said that the treaty will become effective from that date and will be prepared in three languages--Arabic, Hebrew, and English, the English text being the basic reference to the agreement.

MENA has learned that the normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel will take place gradually after the first withdrawal from Al-'Arish to Ra's Muhammad, after which normalization will include the exchange of ambassadors. MENA also learned that the U.S. pledge to supply Israel with oil has nothing to do with Egyptian oil. The agency also found that there are four interpretations that have been appended to the treaty--this is in addition to two other interpretations concerning Annex 1 and Annex 3, and three other amendments.

MENA has learned that according to the new interpretation attached to Annex 1, the time of the first Israeli withdrawal to a line extending from Al-'Arish to Ra's Muhammad has been reduced from 9 to 3 months, as compared to the provisions of the Camp David agreements. The agency has also learned that talks directly between the United States and Israel will take place on the issues on which no final agreement has been reached, although agreement in principle on them has been reached. Contacts will also be conducted with Egypt in this respect. Among these issues are the release of Palestinian prisoners, movement between the West Bank and Gaza, and the return of some Palestinians within the framework of family reunion.

On the other hand, the source told MENA that the next period of negotiations will be much more difficult than the period that has passed because the negotiations will deal with self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza. But just as we have overcome past difficulties, we shall overcome future ones as well, the source said.

KHALIL MAKES STATEMENT ON PEACE AGREEMENT

NC150650 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2320 GMT 14 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 14 March--Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil has said that if the Israeli Cabinet approves the Egyptian proposals and the Knesset endorses them during the next week, he expects President as-Sadat to leave Cairo for Washington Thursday or Friday, 22 or 23 March, in order for him and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin to sign the English text of the agreement before the weekend holiday.

Dr Khalil said in an interview with the well-known American broadcaster, Barbara Walters, that the initial agreement reached between Egypt and Israel is considered an advanced and constructive step toward the achievement of the national aspirations of the Palestinian people.

Dr Khalil said that there is still much to be done for the Palestinians in order to find solutions to all aspects of the Palestinian problem.

Asked his opinion regarding the building of new settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Dr Khalil said that Egypt has always been against the building of new settlements in the occupied territories. The positions of Egypt and the United States on this issue are clear and identical.

Any attempt by Israel to build new settlements undermines the letter and spirit of the peace treaty which is expected to be signed between Egypt and Israel. However, he said, this will not frustrate the signing of the treaty or its cancellation.

FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL DISCUSSES PEACE PROSPECTS

NC141857 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1656 GMT 14 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Khartoum, 14 March--The Foreign Ministry's first under secretary, Dr 'Usamah al-Baz, has stated that Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak's visit to Sudan is an expression of President Anwar as-Sadat's determination to brief Sudanese President Ja'afar Numayri on the outcome of U.S. President Jimmy Carter's tour to Egypt and Israel.

Speaking after his arrival in Khartoum with the Egyptian delegation accompanying the vice president, Dr al-Baz stated that if things continue to go as they have until now, then the path will be paved for two documents: one being an Arab-Israeli peace treaty, and the other related to the establishment of self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza.

Referring to the date for the signing of the peace agreement, Dr al-Baz said that it is difficult to make predictions about a specific time period because there are still several matters pending--not a great number--that might cause certain delays. He added that these documents have to be referred to the executive and legislative bodies of both countries. Dr al-Baz said that if both documents are signed, this step will be the beginning, not the end, of the peace process because after the peace agreement is signed, the biggest challenge will be seen in establishing self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza. Dr al-Baz affirmed that Egypt insists that self-rule should be firmly established, that it should consist of executive, judicial and legislative powers, and that it should manifest all aspects of a real government.

Dr al-Baz also affirmed that Egypt will adhere to its Arab commitments and that it places these above any other consideration. Dr al-Baz added that there is no room for interference by Israel or any other party in our commitments because this is related to Egypt's sovereignty, to its outlook to the nation to which it belongs, and to its strategic security and interests. Dr al-Baz further said that inasmuch as Egypt does not allow any foreign power to interfere in its internal affairs, it is illogical to expect that Egypt will allow Israel to do so.

Referring to reports about the establishment of a four-party axis among Egypt, Sudan, Somalia and North Yemen to deal with the recent events in South Yemen, Dr al-Baz said that this would not be of any use because every axis leads to the establishment of a counteraxis. Dr al-Baz added that what is important is to develop an awareness in all of the Arab region so that it will experience security and stability.

Dr al-Baz said that we are interested in maintaining the greatest measure of stability in the region so that all of its countries can be secure and be disposed to develop their economies and societies and face up to the current challenges. Dr al-Baz affirmed that there is no vacuum in the region, adding that the Arab nation is capable of filling any vacuum by virtue of its manpower, material and spiritual resources.

Dr al-Baz described the current differences among some Arab countries as superficial matters that will be over in no time. He added that Egypt does not believe there are real differences between Arab countries or their fraternal peoples.

Dr al-Baz added that the Arab nation can maintain security and stability in the entire region and fill any imaginable vacuum.

Dr al-Baz affirmed that Egypt is not prepared to play the role of policeman in the region. The only role it insists on playing is that of a participant, along with the Arab brothers, in safeguarding security and stability in the region within the limits that will guarantee the Arab national interests in general.

He said that Egypt, Somalia, Sudan, Djibouti and the Arab brothers in Africa have a responsibility to maintain security and stability in the Nile Valley area and to bolster stability in Africa in general.

He pointed out that this is not done for the benefit of one foreign state against another but on the basis of the principle that any disruption of security and stability in any African state, particularly in neighboring ones, is considered a threat to our security and stability.

He added that we have a direct interest in maintaining security and stability in the Arab area as well as in Africa. He noted that Sudan in particular is capable of playing a principal role in this regard.

Regarding reports that a summit conference would be held to impose sanctions against Egypt if it signs the peace treaty with Israel, Dr al-Baz expressed the belief that the Arabs realize that Egypt cannot abandon its Arab commitments and obligations. He said that when Egypt begins the process of peace with Israel, it will not abandon the Arabs and turn in another direction instead. It is doing this for the liberation of the Arab territory and the restoration of the rights of Arabs and of the Palestinian people.

He affirmed that Egypt knows that Israel will place obstacles in the way, but Egypt is determined to exert pressure on Israel. He said that it would be more appropriate if all the Arabs follow methods that would lead to a change in the situation in the West Bank and Gaza so that the Palestinians there will not stay under Israeli domination.

Speaking about the guarantees for the establishment of self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza, Dr al-Baz said that the first of these guarantees is Egypt's very solid and fortified position, and then the provisions of the Camp David agreements, which support the idea of a genuine autonomy and speak about the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

He added that among these guarantees is also Egyptian-U.S. insistence on the establishment of self-rule and international support, both from Arab and nonalined circles, as well as from those European states ready to play a role in this regard.

Concluding his statement, Dr al-Baz said that what will eventually happen is the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242, which Israel did not want to apply to the West Bank.

AL-AKHBAR CRITICIZES REJECTIONISTS, MOSCOW RADIO

NC150725 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 15 Mar 79 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial article today, the newspaper AL-AKHBAR stresses that the peace agreed upon between Egypt and Israel is not the comprehensive complete peace which we are seeking and struggling for. This was announced by U.S. President Jimmy Carter in the statement he made at the conclusion of his talks in Cairo and Israel. In his statement, President Carter said: We have been able to define all the principal elements of the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel and this peace will be the cornerstone for a comprehenisve peace in the Middle East.

The paper points out that the agreement reached is the basis of the cornerstone, according to the U.S. President, for achieving a comprehensive peace which will include all the parties concerned in the Arab-Israeli conflict and in the Middle East question in general. This was the basis of the call for peace.

AL-AKHBAR notes that at a session of talks held in Cairo vacant seats were kept for other Arab parties to voice their views on what concerns them. The Camp David agreement likewise included a clear invitation to Syria, Jordan and the Palestinians to face their duties in the peaceful settlement and to declare their views on what they approve or reject. However, since the beginning, all of them have denounced the call for peace and insulted those advocating peace. They have set up the so-called rejection front for steeadfastness and resistance. Their resistance was that of insulting and abusing Egypt.

The paper notes that as soon as the agreement on peace between Egypt and Israel was announced, Radio Moscow yesterday broadcast a frenzied appeal or statement on behalf of the Arab world. The Arab world which Radio Moscow means are those who live within the sphere of its influence as agents and who view Moscow as a supporter of their positions and domination over their peoples. Therefore, it was most natural for these agents to speak with Moscow's logic, mentality and opinion.

The paper stressed that the peace question is that of peoples in the Arab homeland. The paper adds: We will continue to expose these agents and those behind them. To those who rejected and continue to reject peace and who think that the whole issue is to spite Egypt because it has restored their dignity in victory in war and security in peace, we say that by your stand you are rejecting yourselves and your Arab existence and you are evading your duties toward your peoples.

ECONOMIC, MILITARY REQUIREMENTS TO BE REPORTED

NC150750 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0658 GMT 15 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 15 March--The newspaper AL-AHRAM today reports that a complete report will be prepared during the coming week about Egypt's economic and military requirements prior to President Anwar as-Sadat's departure for the United States.

AL-AHRAM says that Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil will hold several meetings with the ministers of planning, economy, trade, finance and economic cooperation to discuss all aspects of the Egyptian economic situation in the light of the investment projects requirements, particularly in relation to public utilities and services and means of settling the deficit in the balance of payments. AL-AHRAM says that the Ministry of Defense is preparing a detailed report on Egypt's defense requirements and that today's cabinet meeting will discuss details of Egypt's defense and economic requirements.

CHIEF OF STAFF INSPECTS WESTERN MILITARY AREA

NC141345 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Maj Gen Ahmad Badawi, chief of staff of the armed forces, spent the last 4 days in the western military area where he watched the annual training program of the area command and the commands of its forces. He also inspected a number of units representing various specialized sections in the area. He held meetings with these units attended by the commanders, officers and men. During these meetings, Maj Gen Badawi affirmed the importance of continuous training and vigilance to promote the efficiency and preparedness of the armed forces. Major General Badawi was accompanied on his tour of the western military area by some senior officers of the armed forces.

ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY GENERAL ARRIVES IN CAIRO

NC151058 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 15 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 15 March--Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad arrived in Cairo at noon today from Abu Dhabi after a 5-day tour of the area. During his tour, Riyad visited San'a', Aden and Abu Dhabi to discuss the conflict between the two Yemens within the framework of the political committee stemming from the Arab foreign ministers' conference which was recently held in Kuwait.

MUBARAK RETURNS FROM SUDAN, SAUDI ARABIA

NC150647 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2334 GMT 14 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 14 March--Egyptian Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak returned to Cairo tonight from Jidda following a 1-day visit to Sudan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Leaves for Europe

NC150741 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1733 GMT 15 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 15 March--Egyptian Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning left Cairo for Paris beginning his tour to several West European countries. During his tour, Vice President Mubarak will visit France, Britain, Italy, Yugoslavia, the FRG, Austria, Belgium and Romania to brief the leaders of these states on the results of U.S. President Carter's latest mission in the Middle East.

PROGRESSIVE FRONT ATTACKS ARAB COMMUNIST PARTIES

JN111848 Baghdad INA in English 1440 GMT 11 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, March 11, INA--The Patriotic and Progressive National Front (PPNF) today issued a statement repudiating allegations about persecution or chasing of communists as claimed by a communique issued by some Arab communist parties after recent meeting. Following is the full text of the PPNC document entitled: Objective Reading in the Communique of Some Arab Communist Parties.

It appears that some Arab communist parties have not often benefited from all the faults they fell in, experience they underwent and the setbacks they suffered that have led to dwindling of their political role and to their isolation from the masses and the masses' ambitions. It is because some of these parties have failed to genuinely and scientifically grasp that Arab reality, its obtaining conditions and characteristic features and to interact with this reality. The fact that they have been rather relying on prepared analyses, texts and abstract conclusions, those parties were made to stumble into many mistakes and made unable to adopt the sound attitude that is responsive to the will of the masses, their ambitions and their real pulse.

Some of these parties took the negative stands towards many issues that have been surfacing through the reality of Arab struggle: They failed to interpret and absorb these issues and resorted to verbal texts to seek definition of attitude. Until very recent years, these parties looked upon the Arab revolutionary nationalist movement, of the socialist horizon, as a movement which is led by the bourgeois classes out of concern for protecting their exploitationist interests.

They (the parties) took a hostile stand towards the slogan of Arab unity, called for preference of the regionalistic logic and branded supporters of the Arab unity with chauvinism and racialism. The socialist Arab revolutionary nationalist movement then became a sweeping historic and popular torrent and the slogan of Arab unity began to effectively shake citizens across the Arab arena and to fasten them onto struggle and for entering the battles of destiny.

Here some of the Arab communist parties discovered their blunder and were impelled to adjust many of their perceptions and strategies in order to match with the popular tide of the Arab homeland that has become adherent to new vanguard revolutionary nationalist forces.

Around these forces rallied the popular multitude to an extent that it is now playing a historic role on the pan-Arab level and leading the decisive transformations now being witnessed in the Arab homeland.

As a result of these mistakes and attitudes, some communist parties in the Arab homeland have turned into secondary parties suffering of weakness among the masses, isolation and self-seclusion.

They only became platforms and benches for those theorists and intellectuals well-versed in rhetorics and skillful in bringing forth from old briefcases ready-made analyses to interpret this or that event be it happened in Guatemala or Yemen or France. They became more of a total isolation from the understanding of the reality of the masses, their pulse and their feelings than they ought to be as revolutionary parties interacting with the masses, their interests, hopes and ambitions.

Thus their isolation from the masses has increased and they have distanced themselves from a capacity of representing the interests of the masses, particularly the Arab working class and the hard toiling masses. Those masses in whose name the parties claimed to speak and to class-wise represent, have joined new vanguard revolutionary forces with whom they managed to interact and to polarise and lead in the direction of achieving their objectives.

The Arab working class have realised through actual events that those who make the revolution and effect the decisive historic transformations on the level of reality are different from those who speak about the revolution in rigid ready-made mouthpieces. They have realised that those who create the working class new reality, who achieve for them the gains and accomplishments are different from those ruminating statements about the liberation and happiness of the working class but doing nothing for their cause.

Some Arab communist parties who are bent on exaggeration about assessment of their political role for some 40 years have not been able to create one radical and big revolutionary event. Their own policies have rather led to their isolation from the masses and their patriotic and nationalist forces. The reason for that is their adoption of a stand which is outside the framework of national history and the struggles carried on within it, particularly their stands towards the Palestine issue which is based on the theory of the presence of the Zionist entity and its recognition.

These parties now surviving on the sideline of the patriotic, national struggle movement and the revolutionary masses movement recently met to study outstanding developments on the Arab and international levels and issued a long communique on their meeting. The communique analytically dealt with important events that are witnessed in the arena of the Arab homeland and the world and developments of the Arab situation, also the aggravation of the imperialist-Zionist onslaught on the Arab national liberation movement.

The communique referred to the occurence of grave developments that pushed the Arab confrontation between this movement and the imperialist and Zionist and reactionary forces to new levels chief among which is the act of treason committed by Anwar as-Sadat by signing the Camp David agreement.

The agreement, the communique said, capped the overall course pursued by As-Sadat since his assumption of authority. Among the features of this course is the position of retreat from the transformations that had been achieved in Egypt and his total alignment to imperialism, added the communique.

It also touched on positive feature took place [as received]in the Arab situation and pointed out that the region on the other hand witnessed indomitable anti-apostacy popular upsurge as well as official responsiveness to this upsurge demonstrated on various forms and levels. In enumerating these, the communique referred to the Arab summit and the Iraqi-Syrian National Joint Action Charter.

Yet some of the Arab communist parties, relying on ready-made texts and analyses, have failed genuinely and scientifically to grasp these features by calling [as received] their objective reasons and discovering the forces and motives behind them. We agree with these parties that the Camp David agreement represented a treasonous step with negative repercussions on the Arab struggle movement. The question is, has this agreement come by surprise or detached from what have been witnessed in the Arab region of events and policies?

Hasn't it been the outproduct of a course known for several years now, specifically during the post-June War period? The course of capitulation which ended up in the visit of As-Sadat to occupied Jerusalem and to Camp David and in all the steps described by the communique as treason and apostacy. [incomplete sentence as received]

Some Arab communist parties, whilst having condemned the As-Sadat steps as treason and apostacy, failed to condemn the course pursued by As-Sadat from the outset. That course which led him to this path, a course which we believe is not opposed by some Arab communist parties. [incomplete sentence as received] It is ideologically approved by them although they disagree on some implementation details or procedures.

Some Arab communist parties called for peaceful solutions finding them non-contradictory to national interests. They regarded the Geneva conference, if it were to reconvene and be attended by all major powers with actual participation, as providing the ideal solution to the Palestine case. These parties differed in their analysis and stands towards this issue from the Arab revolutionary forces which had opposed the course of settlements and strongly resisted it.

The Arab revolutionary forces were upholding principled firm stands and condemning all steps that were being made along this course stressing that it is only leading to squandering the national interests and the central Arab cause, the Palestinian issue.

Iraq of the revolution, led by the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, was in the forefront of these forces.

Who created the fervant popular upsurge talked about by the communique of the Arab communist parties? Were they those who agreed to the course of settlements or those who strongly opposed the course and stood on principled positions against it? Who were the elements which contributed to creating the Arab popular upsurge that followed the conclusion of the Camp David agreement?

Who created the upsurge? Was it created by limited condemnation splashed on certain newspapers or by statements issued by parties that did not condemn the course but did condemn the initiative. Again, who moved the Arab reality and called for rejection of treachery, capitulation and kneeling?

Who called for countering the imperialist-Zionist scheming and commanding the line for steadfastness and for taking deterrent nationalist measures in face of this scheming? Wasn't it the Iraqi historic initiative as represented in convening the Arab summit where the Arab states meet to agree on minimum level of agreement towards the principal national cause, the Palestine cause?

That summit produced a phased program containing conditions and principles for Arab nationalist consensus followed by the historic rapprochement between Iraq and Syria and the conclusion of the National Joint Action Charter.

Why have some Arab communist parties ignored the national historic role played by Iraq? In whose interest is the smoke-screening on Iraq's positive initiatives towards changing the course of events in the region? Also Iraq's initiatives seeking to tilt the balance of power and conflict in favor of the Arab masses and spreading the climate of steadfastness and popular nationalist upsurge.

It is a well known fact that Iraq led by the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party stood firmly against the policy of settlement and firmly and boldly resisted the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary plans. It stood firmly against any plan not encompassing radical solution to the Palestine issue, a solution serving the interest of its Arab people. Iraq has put forward its view on this question in all firmness of clarity.

Iraq succeeded in bringing together the majority of the Arab states to agree on common points for national action--during the Baghdad summit--that represented a minimum framework affording for joint work in the shade of current conditions to prevent harming Arab interests and rights. The minimum limit agreed on also provided for firm stand against attempts of imperialist and Zionist circles and the As-Sadat regime.

Another slip in which fell the communist parties is seen in the mention by the communique that the Iraqi-Syrian get-together came in harmony with calls voiced by allied and friendly forces.

While appreciating the role of international friends and allies in backing up the Arab nation's struggle, we, on the other hand, want to affirm that the Joint National Action Charter between Iraq and Syria was the outcome of the struggle of the masses and the party, particularly the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party and masses in the two sisterly countries.

The National Charter became a national need that superseded all previous considerations and all Arab and international mediations and calls. The Arab nation, in the wake of the Camp David, faced a dangerous fateful turn whose dangers could only be averted by an Iraqi-Syrian meeting aimed at bolstering the Arab nation's steadfastness and fending off attacks by enemies of the nation.

International changes favourable to the Arab nation and its causes cannot take place in a vacuum. There must be coherent domestic stands to enable friends and allies to demonstrate their support. That is what actually happened and we, therefore, highly appreciate all those who supported the Iraqi initiative and its outcome.

Therefore, the Iraqi-Syrian unity was not a politically-motivated, but a nationally-motivated one--something which, we believe, some Arab communist parties could not grasp. The new relationship between Iraq and Syria came through a national approach that placed the interest and progressive national struggle of the Arab nation above all other considerations and through a deep understanding of the role of unity and its effectiveness in enhancing the steadfastness of the Arab masses versus the ever-widening imperialist-Zionist assault and in supporting its liberation struggle.

The communique referred to what it called a campaign against the Iraqi Communist Party and expressed condemnation by the Arab communist parties to such methods in treatment with revolutionary forces.

We don't know what a campaign these parties are talking about. The Iraqi Communist Party [ICP] is a partner in the Patriotic Progressive and Nationalist Front and has its representatives in the higher committee, general secretariat and the provincial committees of the PPNF. The party also has two representatives in the government and key members of the party occupy important posts in the state organs and the autonomous organs.

The party also has numerous newspapers published in Baghdad such as the party central organ TARIQ ASH-SHA'B daily, AL-FIKR AL-JADID weekly and ATH-THAQAFAH AL-JADIDAH monthly which is published by the communist party-owned AR-RIWAD publishing house. The party is openly publishing and distributing its publications and exercising its activity openly and normally.

Where is the repressive campaign of which the communique is talking? If the revolutionary authority has any doubts about the behaviour of some of the Communist Party members, something that prompted certain measures by the competent authorities against them for violating laws and behaving in a manner harmful to the state security, these measures are, indeed, individual cases which could be taken against any Iraqi citizen even members of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party which leads the revolutionary authority in the country. These measures could not be interpreted as a repressive campaign as stated in the communique. The revolution in Iraq does not use repressive methods against any citizen nor does it believe in these methods far from political dialogue unless these persons constituted an obstacle on the road of the revolution and joined its enemies and began to threaten its security.

The Iraqi revolution, like any other revolution in the world, seeks protection against its enemies and invokes laws against conspiratorials. But this does not mean that the leadership of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party [ABSP] has no observations about the conduct and stands of the Communist Party and behaviour of some of its members. These observations are usually discussed at meetings of the PPNF and at meetings between key members of the ABSP and the ICP. Sometimes, the authority is forced to take a certain measure against some communist activists who violate the laws by forming secret cells inside the army in violation to the agreement reached by the ABSP and ICP at the start of the PPNF. We would like to mention heretoafter some of the stands and behaviour of the ICP:

All basic principles and role of the PPNF and its status and objectives, particularly the distinctive leading role of the ABSP in authority, front and society as well as the revolutionary programme which all forces and parties should urhold at this stage, the stands towards the Palestine question and means of its solution and the impermissibility for the political forces allied in the front to work inside the armed forces or to set up any cells inside the armed forces, were thoroughly discussed at meetings between the ABSP and representatives of the patriotic forces and parties prior to the establishment of the PPNF.

The meetings had made it clear that the front was being built within the frame of the revolution and its principles and political line and within complete allegiance to the revolution and its orientation, principles and leadership. All these and other issues became clear for all parties including the ICP, which proclaimed their desire to participate in the front.

But, regrettably, the ICP, and in spite of all the guarantees and possibilities provided for it by the revolution for exercising its activity within the frame of the front, and its organs used to take stands on national and nationalist issues that are diametrically opposed to those taken by the revolution and against the revolution's principles and were inconsistent with the strategic stand of the revolution, particularly concerning the Palestine question, on the basis of foreign-inspired analyses, the Communist Party, instead of acting as an ally, adopted indifferent stance towards many of the battles waged by the struggle against the counterrevolutionaires and not take negative stance harmful to the struggle of its ally, leader of the patriotic authority in Iraq.

The Communist Party used to fabricate rumours against the revolution and the ABSP and spread them among citizens with a veiw of discredting the ABSP and the revolution before the masses and belittling the importance of the accomplishments won by the ABSP and the revolution. The Communist Party went as far as inciting sectarianism and nationalistic sensitivities and used demagogian methods in fostering the passions of some people. The Communist Party also started to raise some demands when the objective conditions were not ripe for their fulfillment with the aim of embarrassing the revolution. This was clear in the political manifesto issued by the plenary meeting of the ICP Central Committee in March last year.

Lastly, the Communist Party capped all these stances by violating its agreement with the ABSP concerning keeping clear of work inside armed forces and organized cells inside the army though the Communist Party knew for certain that punishment for those undertaking such activity inside the army was execution according to the laws in force and according to the agreement signed with it. When the revolution unearthed those cells and invoked the law against those organizing them, the Communist Party embarked on a wide-spread defamation campaign against the revolution and instigated some communist parties and some socialist states against the revolution, particularly with the aim of jeopardizing relations between those parties and states, and Iraq--something which would do no good neither to the liberation movement nor to the interests of the peoples fighting against imperialism and colonialism.

These were mere examples of the stances of the ICP we are mentioning here for the Arab communist parties and world and Arab public opinion, and leave it to them to decide on what stance ought to be taken by the revolution towards those stances. However, the revolution displayed patience and self-restraint and repeatedly called upon the ICP, whether through the PPNF meetings or other meetings, for a dialogue covering all aspects of the frontal alliance and the conduct and stances of the Communist Party in order to arrive at a unified approach to all the tabled issues. But the Communist Party always evaded dialogue under various pretexts--something that denotes beyond any doubt that ICP does not want to reconsider its position and was persistently adhering to its line, the line of cooperation and alliance ostensibly and scheming and subversion secretly.

The Communist Party continued to violate the National Action Charter, and in its attempts to harm the revolution and its accomplishments and to subvert the PPNF, the Communist Party began to propose hard-line stands on issues that do not require such hardening to compel the revolution to take a certain measure against the Communist Party to justify a counter-campaign by the party against the revolution and to break with the PPNF under the pretext that the party was suppressed and it could not work under the present conditions--something which the revolution could see through.

We want to remind those parties which issued the communique and which hit their breasts on democracy in Iraq and the unity and cohesion of the PPNF and the future of Iraq and its role in the Arab struggle that democracy is not allegations written on paper, but real practice and concrete measures. With this in mind, democracy in Iraq is in good [as received] and this is confirmed by the masses of our people who are enjoying the widest freedoms and playing their role in political activity expressing their views through their patriotic and progressive nationalist parties through their organs and newspapers and through their popular and vocational organizations, which elect their leaderships freely and play their role in expressing the will of the segments under their command.

We support democracy within the frame of protecting the revolution and the gains of the masses, and our people are exercising the broadest democracy since the outbreak of the revolution and up to now. The forthcoming stage will witness wider exercise of democracy through the election by the masses of our people of their representatives to the National Assembly which Comrade Saddam Husayn, vice-chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council, recently announced will be introduced soon. [passage indistinct]

ROMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN121410 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 12 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 12 March--Stefan Andrei, Romanian minister of foreign affairs, arrived here at noon today at the head of a delegation on a 4-day visit to Iraq. Andrei made a 1-hour stopover at Damascus international airport during which he held talks with 'Abd al-Karim 'Adi, Syrian minister of state for foreign affairs, dealing with the situation in the area and bilateral relations.

Meets Planning Minister

JN131405 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT 13 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 13 March--'Adnan Husayn, Revolution Command Council member and planning minister, met here today with Romanian Foreign Minister Stefan Andrei. They discussed bilateral relations and means of promoting them.

Meets Trade Minister

JN131818 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1755 GMT 13 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 13 March--Revolution Command Council member and Trade Minister Hasan 'Ali met here today with Romanian Foreign Affairs Minister Stefan Andrei and his accompanying delegation, which is visiting Iraq. At the meeting, which was attended by the Romanian ambassador in Baghdad, they discussed bilateral economic, trade and technical relations and means of promoting them.

Oil Cooperation

JN141204 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 14 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 14 March--Revolution Command Council member and Oil Minister Tayih 'Abd al-Karim met today with Romanian Foreign Affairs Minister Stefan Andrei. During the meeting, they discussed oil relations between the two countries and ways to develop them. The meeting was attended by the director general of the department of foreign investments and relations at the Iraqi Oil Ministry and the Romanian ambassador in Baghdad.

Andrei, Hammadi Meeting

JN141354 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1344 GMT 14 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 14 March--Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi received Romanian Foreign Minister Stefan Andrei this afternoon.

They discussed the outcome of the Romanian foreign minister's talks with several officials in the Ba'th Party Regional Command. Hammadi and Andrei also discussed the situation in the Arab area following the Camp David agreements and developments in bilateral relations.

Andrei Departs

JN151054 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 15 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 15 March--Stefan Andrei, Romanian minister of foreign affairs, and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad this morning after a 4-day visit. During his visit Andrei held meetings with Iraqi officials on ways to strengthen relations between the two countries in the interests of their peoples.

FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES FORMER PLO CHIEF

JN141352 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT 14 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 14 March--Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi received former PLO chief Ahmad ash-Shuqayri here this morning. They discussed current Arab issues, particularly those pertaining to the Arab cause and Arab unity.

BAGHDAD RESOLUTIONS MUST BE APPLIED TO AS-SADAT

JN140949 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 14 Mar 79 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 14 March--The newspapers ATH-THAWRAH and AL-JUMHURIYAH published here today say that whether As-Sadat signs the treaty of capitulationist settlement or not, the facts will not change. In two commentaries published today on Carter's recent tour of the Arab area, ATH-THAWRAH and AL-JUMHURIYAH say that As-Sadat's policy and declared intentions will not change. Consequently, the two papers call for the implementation of the Baghdad summit resolutions against the Egyptian regime, which has confirmed its treason and relinquishment of the rights of Egypt and those of the Arab nation.

ATH-THAWRAH says: Regardless of the progress achieved by the sides involved in the capitulationist settlement toward signing the proposed treaty, and whether the treaty is signed or not, the question which crops up here is: Does the failure to sign the treaty mean the failure of the Carter tour in achieving its other objectives? And has Carter returned to Washington with no gains achieved?

ATH-THAWRAH adds: All indications confirm that coordination and understanding between the U.S. administration and As-Sadat's regime have made significant strides. This also applies to U.S.-Zionist relations.

ATH-THAWRAH continues: The process of coordination and cooperation between the Carter-As-Sadat axis and the Carter-Begin axis will be enhanced after the Carter conspiratorial visit. Perhaps they might become close enough to form a military, political and economic alliance--the Carter-Begin-As-Sadat alliance. If the progress achieved in the negotiations on the capitulationist settlement is substantial and basic, as Begin said, and if questions previously regarded as complicated, such as the question of diplomatic representation, have been resolved, what then is left of the 5 percent which Carter spoke about before the beginning of his tour, and why the renewal of talk about the stumbling of the Carter mission?

Concluding its commentary, ATH-THAWRAH says: Whether As-Sadat signs the peace treaty or not, this will not change facts in any way. The Arab nation should apply the Baghdad summit resolutions against him.

The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says that Carter's recent tour is a "beautification process" of the Camp David agreements, which have been condemned on the Arab official and popular levels. This condemnation should include any separate peace agreement between the Egyptian regime and the Zionist entity. The United States in its present capitalist and social structure is a historic enemy of the Arab nation. The tour of Carter and his top aides to parts of the Arab homeland brings back this capitalist hostility to the Arabs in new and advanced formulas.

AL-JUMHURIYAH continues: In principle, there are no differences among the United States, the Zionist entity, and the Egyptian regime, although they have varying degrees of hostility toward Arab interests. We must assess the dangers posed to the Arabs and the nature of the Arab and non-Arab forces participating in creating these dangers. AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: While the struggle against the Tel Aviv entity is a sound pan-Arab stand which we should not go back on, the struggle against U.S. policy in the area, based on an independent Arab position, should become official Arab policy in the various Arab countries.

In conclusion, AL-JUMHURIYAH says: While the Zionist settlers heard Carter praising the American-Zionist alliance, the Arab rulers should be decisive in equating the Zionist entity with the United States, because they are two faces of the same coin.

PAPER CALLS FOR CONFRONTING EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI MOVES

JN151004 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 15 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 15 March--The newspaper ATH-THAWRAH has stressed that from the practical and official point of view, the As-Sadat regime will remain against the Arab nation. Adding Egypt's weight to the Arab nation can be insured by overthrowing and liquidating As-Sadat. This is a decision for the Egyptian Arab people. The newspaper of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party reviews the capitulatory settlement steps the As-Sadat regime has taken. The paper points out that U.S. imperialism and its ally, the Zionist entity, not only aim at removing Egypt from the Arab fold, but also at prompting the Arab nation to capitulate. This is being done by exaggerating the As-Sadat regime's role and portraying it larger than its true size, so as to increase the Arab nation's despair and force it to give into the status quo.

The paper points out that this settlement was moving forward step-by-step before Iraq's call to convene the ninth Arab summit conference in Baghdad. As a result of this conference, the step-by-step approach was inadequate. Thus the settlement is being hastened in a flagrant attempt to achieve quick results in the interests of the conspiratorial schemes. The paper stresses that this new formula will fail to impose domination on the Arab area or force it to surrender to the Zionists' conditions. The paper says that the inevitability of unity between Iraq and Syria is a landmark in boosting the nation's potentials on the road to overall confrontation with the Zionist enemy.

The paper says that the acceleration of the settlement measures at this particular time places the Arab nation before a new confrontation, although the nation's position is now generally better and the possibilities of effective action in the interests of the Arab cause are available, particularly after the signing of the Joint National Action Charter between Syria and Iraq.

In conclusion, ATH-THAWRAH calls on the Arab masses to enhance their militant potentials and to firmly adhere to a joint Arab program to confront the traitorous agreements. The paper stresses that this is the sound way to pool Arab efforts, to contain all manifestations of treason and deviation, and to defend the nation's destiny and pan-Arab existence.

KING HUSAYN REITERATES JORDANIAN STAND ON OVERALL PEACE

JN141647 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Today His Majesty King Husayn presided over a special Cabinet session devoted to discussing the ramifications of the Middle East developments following the declaration of the Egyptian and Israeli Governments' tendencies toward signing a bilateral peace treaty and in light of various aspects of the area's political status and its potentials, given the serious turning point in developments.

At the outset of the session, His Majesty King Husayn made a comprehensive appraisal of the various aspects of the situation on both the Arab and international levels. His majesty pointed out the size and nature of the challenges facing the entire Arab nation as a result of the signing of the separate peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. This, his majesty added, makes it necessary that the Arab nation confront this treaty collectively, with vigilance and cohesion.

His majesty stressed the need of diligent endeavors in building self-contained Arab power, without which the required steadfastness cannot be achieved. This steadfastness would enable the nation to safeguard and restore its rights. His majesty reiterated that the Jordanian stand has always been committed to achieving a just peace, based on a comprehensive solution that would guarantee the participation of all parties and would include a solution for all problems, incorporating Israel's full withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, foremost of which is Jerusalem, and the restoration of the Palestinian people's national rights; including their right to freely determine their future. His majesty stressed the need to protect national cohesion, to continue building Jordan's strength and to support Arab solidarity with all of the Arab nation's capabilities. His majesty said that these capabilities should be organized so as to insure the bridging of all gaps open to the enemies' breakthrough, a breakthrough aimed at shaking Arab capability for steadfastness and for building its power.

His majesty warned against emotionalism, which is vainly exhausting the nation's potentials. He called for full vigilance and awareness in protecting the pan-Arab march. He stressed the need for Jordan to continue in its vigilant moves on both the Arab and international levels, in the Arab nation's interest. His majesty also focused on the importance of the Arab action course in light of the Baghdad summit conference resolutions. He called for consolidating unified Arab action.

The 2-hour session was attended by Chief of the Royal Court Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf and Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd.

CROWN PRINCE HASSAN DISCUSSES WEST BANK SITUATION

ID141125 London THE GUARDIAN in English 14 Mar 79 p 15 ID

[Article by Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan: "A West Bank Fly in the Peacemaking Ointment." The article is subheaded: "Into the Euphoria Generated by President Carter's Trip Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan Injects a Note of Realism."]

[Text] Rarely in history have efforts to achieve peace been viewed with so much apprehension by so many. This is not because those not involved in the present bilateral treaty efforts are not interested in peace. On the contrary, their desire for a just and durable peace is even greater.

They know, however, that there cannot be a short cut to peace; that for peace to be genuine, the defences for it must be constructed first in the minds of men. No treaty, however carefully drafted, can guarantee peace if the parties concerned do not have the necessary good faith demonstrated tangibly to all concerned. Israeli practices in the occupied territories, carried out in defiance of world opinion, show clearly that her peace efforts are yet another exercise in realpolitik.

The broad framework, resulting from Camp David, full of ambiguity as it is, did not address the main issues which, inevitably, should serve as the cornerstones of any peace effort. The fact that three out of the four front-line states facing Israel did not at any stage participate in the peace effort, is in itself an eloquent comment on the inadequacy and fragility of the Camp David arrangements.

Paradoxically, the three states involved in the proposed peace treaty have spent a lot of time and effort discussing, among other things the position of the West Bank, to which none of them has, or can have, a legal claim. Nor have the Palestinian people, whether inside the occupied territories or outside, been consulted or involved in the process, although they are the core of the problem.

As far as Jordan is concerned, it goes without saying that she has the biggest national stake in any peace effort. Her total and consistent devotion to the cause of peace needs no explanations. Through the years, Jordan has steadfastly stood by the three main elements which she considers essential:

1. Total withdrawal of Israel from the Arab territories occupied in June 1967.
2. The right to self-determination under conditions of free choice for the Palestinians who are at the centre of the Middle East conflict.
3. The right of all states in the area to live in peace with, if necessary, guarantees to security to all parties.

A few days ago, Jordan initiated action in the Security Council so that necessary attention is paid and adequate action is taken by the United Nations in this respect. At the time of writing, the Security Council is discussing the question of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, with particular reference to Israeli motives underlying her action in this regard, and the significance of some West Bank resources to Israel, which play an important role in Israel's calculations as far as the peace efforts are concerned.

It should be noted that any settlements established during a military occupation are in violation of the fourth Geneva convention on the protection of persons in times of war.

There are 77 Israeli settlements on the West Bank with a budgeted plan for future expansion in 1979. In particular, Israel has been concentrating satellite housing estates in and around east Jerusalem, sheltering some 76,000 persons.

In the West Bank, of its total area of 550,000 hectares, some 148,866 hectares, or 27.1 per cent of the total area, have been confiscated by the Israeli authorities. The total area of settlements is estimated, at present, to be 34,748 hectares. Likewise, the total population of the West Bank is estimated to be 673,000. Already in 1978 there were 90,147 Israeli settlers. In other words, Israeli settlers already constitute 13.4 per cent of the total population of the West Bank.

In appraising the Security Council of this matter, Jordan has sought to have the international community halt the Israeli practice of establishing these settlements which add seriously to the existing impediments to peace, and to invite a United Nations fact-finding mission to go to the area. What is significant in the Israeli policy is not only the establishment of these settlements as an impediment to peace, but also a whole gamut of administrative and related measures intended to diminish the influence of the Arab majority, transforming them into malleable Bantustan communities dependent on Israel.

Ever since the occupation, Israel has set out to reap what economic benefits it can from the resources of the West Bank. According to available 1977 figures, Israel took about 62 per cent of the exports and provided 90 per cent of imports, while the East Bank provided a market for 37 per cent of the West Bank exports and only 2 percent of its imports. Israel imposes high custom duties on East Bank exports to the West Bank, thus strengthening the link between the economies of the West Bank and Israel.

With restrictive and sometimes oppressive conditions under occupation, job opportunities on the West Bank itself are on the decline. Forced to earn a living, West Bankers are tempted to seek employment in Israel which is taking advantage of about 60,000 of them, a cheap source of labour, forming about 5 per cent of the Israeli labour force.

Most of the confiscated land set aside for Israeli settlements has been good agricultural land on the West Bank.

The conditions of hardship for Palestinians in the West Bank, created by the Israeli occupying authorities with the intention of changing the demographic picture, dramatised by the continuing tragedy in Jerusalem, has aggravated the internal hate-marriage of the occupied Arab territories.

Apart from continued deportation of West Bankers since 1967, conditions in the West Bank have forced, last year alone, some 22,000 persons to cross to the East Bank of Jordan.

The Camp David accords and the proposed peace treaty have not halted these major changes in the occupied territories and thus are in reality flawed by this grave omission.

HUSAYN RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM U.S. PRESIDENT CARTER

JN142027 Amman Domestic Television Service in English 2000 GMT 14 Mar 79 JN

[Text] His majesty the king received a letter today from U.S. President Jimmy Carter concerning recent developments in the Middle East and the U.S. stand.

PLO DELEGATION ARRIVES IN AMMAN FOR TALKS

JN142126 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Mar 79 JN

[Text] The PLO delegation arrived in Amman this evening under Zuhayr Muhsin and includes 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, Mahmud 'Abbas and 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Yahya.

The visit is part of the successive contacts that started some time ago between Jordan and the PLO and is for the purpose of resuming discussion with high-ranking Jordanian officials on several aspects of Jordanian-PLO cooperation. The visit also comes in accordance with a previous agreement between the two sides.

NATIONALISTS ISSUE STATEMENT ON EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI PACT

JN151049 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 15 Mar 79 JN

[Excerpt] Beirut, 15 March--The Lebanese Nationalist Movement has called for laying siege on the As-Sadat regime and preventing the spread of the imperialist-Zionist plan to other parts of the Arab homeland. In a statement issued here last night, the Nationalist Movement said that the visit to the Arab area by U.S. President Jimmy Carter has placed the As-Sadat regime once and for all on the road to signing a bilateral peace treaty within a short time.

This statement calls for the Arab regimes to immediately take the initiative and to implement the resolutions of the ninth summit conference held in Baghdad. These resolutions define the minimum required for the confrontation and for insuring maximum cohesion of the Arab national camp. The statement stresses that the Joint National Action Charter between Syria and Iraq, the strengthening of the front of steadfastness, and the unleashing of the national and pan-Arab forces of the Arab people are the most important Arab weapons to take the initiative and to launch a national counterattack to force U.S. imperialism to pay a heavy price for the fall of the Egyptian link.

FORCES COMMAND ISSUES STATEMENT ON ARMY DEPLOYMENT

NC150753 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 15 Mar 79 NC

[15 March statement by responsible source of Lebanese Forces Command--read by announcer]

[Text] Commander of the Lebanese Forces Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil and Mr Dany Sham'un have contacted the Lebanese Army Command within the framework of the mission entrusted to them during the joint extraordinary meeting of the Lebanese forces Command Council and the leaders of the Lebanese Front, former President Camille Sham'un and Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil. They conveyed to the higher competent authorities in the army command the Lebanese forces' position as defined in the statement which was issued by a responsible source of the Lebanese forces on 13 March.

The statement can be summarized as follows: The Lebanese forces support the deployment of the army in all areas and axes in Beirut and in particular on the entire length of all the contact lines, but do not accept that a symbolic role be given to the army out of their desire to uphold its prestige and reputation. Moreover, the Lebanese forces do not agree that the deployment of the army be confined to rear positions and not include the front lines.

REPORT ON PRIME MINISTER AL-HUSS' ACTIVITIES 15 MAR

NC151035 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 15 Mar 79 NC

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss met at his office in government house this morning with Deputy Speaker Munir Abu Fadil and chairman of the Parliamentary Defense Committee Col Fu'ad Lahud. They discussed the relaxation created by the approval of the defense law by the chamber of deputies. They also discussed the arrangements which the government is making to fill the vacuum that will be created by the withdrawal of the Saudi forces.

Prime Minister al-Huss then met with Chairman of the Parliamentary Administration and Justice Committee Deputy Nazim al-Qadiri. Later he met with Minister Amin al-Bizri and discussed the security and political situation with him.

WEEKLY CABINET MEETING REPORTED 14 MAR

NC141405 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Mar 79 NC

[Text] At 1215 today, President Ilyas Sarkis presided over the Cabinet's weekly meeting. Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and the ministers attended the session. Minister of Health Dr Ibrahim Shu'aytu was absent; he is currently on a mission abroad.

The president held a working meeting at 1130 attended by Prime Minister al-Huss and Foreign and Expatriates Affairs Minister Fu'ad Butrus.

The Cabinet session ended at 1400. Afterward, Cabinet Secretary General Dr 'Umar al-Musayki released the following official information: At the beginning of the session, President Ilyas Sarkis said he was gratified because the Chamber of Deputies had approved the defense bill and the general budget bill. The president praised in particular the parliamentary and democratic spirit manifested at this session. He also praised the deep sense of national responsibility.

The president said: I do not find such an action surprising when it is taken by the noble Chamber of Deputies. This is because we have grown accustomed to seeing this chamber adopt such patriotic positions at critical times. I hope that all the citizens will work in the same spirit which prevailed yesterday during the meeting of their representatives. I also hope that all the people will concert their efforts so that they will facilitate implementation of the defense law--not only because it is a legislative decree, but because it represents a national need. I also hope that the people will do this thing in a true spirit of patriotism and serene brotherhood. The president then said it is imperative to implement this law with the expected speed. This constitutes a basic step toward the achievement of national detente and in following up the rebuilding of the army and of all the other state institutions.

The Cabinet then turned its discussions to the general situation prevailing in the country and in the area in light of the present developments. The cabinet then studied and approved a number of matters and projects.

Upon leaving the palace, Prime Minister al-Huss made the following statement: The discussion at today's Cabinet session centered on two main subjects. The first subject was the decision of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to withdraw its forces from Lebanon as well as the efforts which the government is exerting to thwart any negative repercussions that might be produced by this decision in the security domain. I take this opportunity to say that there is no cause for concern over the possibility of a vacuum being created which will produce security implications of undesirable consequences. This is because contacts and efforts are being continued in order to ward off such results. Anyway, the implementation of the decision to withdraw the Saudi forces has been postponed for a few days. Meanwhile, we will have time to find efficacious solutions for this state of affairs which has occurred.

The second subject involved the developments which the area has witnessed in connection with the Middle East issue. An assessment was made of the repercussions which might ensue from these developments, be it concerning the Middle East area or the situation in Lebanon.

PRESIDENT AL-ASAD RECEIVES PLO'S MILITARY DEPARTMENT CHIEF

JN141651 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Mar 79 JN

[Text] President Hafiz Al-Asad received Zuhayr Muhsin, head of the PLO Military Department, at 1345 today. They discussed the situation in Lebanon and issues of concern to the PLO.

GOVERNMENT INFORMS LEBANON OF PREPAREDNESS TO WITHDRAW FORCES

JN120700 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 12 Mar 79 P 20 JN

[Exclusive dispatch by AR-RA'Y correspondent]

[Text] Beirut--The Syrian Government has officially notified the Lebanese Government that it is prepared to withdraw its forces from Lebanon whenever President Sarkis personally requests this.

The Syrian Government explained that it prefers to withdraw its forces from all Lebanese territory if their presence is restricted to the western area of Beirut, because in the Syrian Government's view this would mean giving legitimacy to partition.

The Syrian Government also explained that the presence of the Syrian forces in Lebanon is not intended to protect a certain side but to keep law and order and to prevent clashes between the rightwing militias and the progressive forces.

EGYPT'S ACCEPTANCE OF U.S. PROPOSALS VIEWED AS CAPITULATORY

JN142137 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 14 Mar 79 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] When U.S. President Jimmy Carter declared his wish to visit Egypt and Israel in order to put the final touches on the separate peace treaty between the head of the Egyptian regime and Israel, he knew very well that his reputation was at stake and that his leadership was being put to the test. Despite this, the leader of the Pentagon did not hesitate. His waning popularity needed a new boost so that he could embark on the journey of renewing his U.S. presidency.

If the Carter-Begin-as-Sadat trio had agreed on the details of the separate peace agreement, they needed to announce the treaty in a way that would deceive many, who would then be encouraged to join the camp of capitulation. The "direction" of the treaty required that the treaty encompass the substance of the Zionist demands and the form of As-Sadat's demands, so that the Egyptian regime's ruler could retain a measure of dignity in the face of the Arab people.

If the Zionist enemy had become accustomed to making no concessions, he also believed that As-Sadat should offer further concessions, especially as it is As-Sadat who is calling for hastening the conclusion of a peace treaty, hoping to obtain increased U.S. aid, having proven his loyalty to and total bias in favor of the anti-Arab camp.

However, As-Sadat and Carter have to reckon with the resolutions of the ninth Arab summit conference held in Baghdad, which not only rejected the two Camp David agreements but also denounced them. Secret resolutions were adopted providing for the imposition of sanctions on As-Sadat's regime should it sign the treaty of treason and capitulation.

As-Sadat and Carter also had to reckon with the Iranian revolution's triumph, which dealt a heavy blow both to U.S. strategy in the area and to the Zionist enemy, which considered the shah's regime its principle ally.

However, though Carter might have preferred to resort to tactics for a short while in the hope that he could catch his breath and rearrange the American cards--one of whose manifestations was the visit of the U.S. defense secretary--As-Sadat could not wait, for he had staked his fate on the success of his capitulationist initiative. Moreover, the leaders of the Zionist entity, who had carefully studied As-Sadat's weaknesses, began a process of extortion aimed at As-Sadat, calculating that the course of events in the area would prompt U.S. imperialism to throw all its weight behind Israel, in the belief that it is the strongest and most stable U.S. ally in the area, an ally which could serve U.S. strategy, especially after the collapse of the shah's regime. As a result of the failure of the U.S. defense secretary in achieving the goals of his visit, and driven by the need to achieve a personal gain, the U.S. president embarked on his visit, opting for a temporary gain, even at the expense of the opportunity of establishing a just peace. He realized from the very beginning that the achievement of this gain is linked to the extent of the concessions made by the head of the Egyptian regime. Carter found in Cairo all the concessions he had wished. As-Sadat is willing to sign without knowing what he is signing.

As for Israel, the situation is quite different there. Despite all the temptations offered by Carter, despite all the guarantees he pledged and despite all the concessions that As-Sadat agreed to make, the negotiations stumbled and even reached the point of failure. Israel wants to make use of this opportunity and shackle a post-As-Sadat Egypt with further chains.

After it was announced that the negotiations had reached a deadlock, Carter surprised the world by declaring that he had achieved the objective of his trip and that As-Sadat and Begin had agreed on the main ingredients for an Egyptian-Israeli treaty.

The Syrian Arab region has been stressing for some time that what is happening among the Carter-As-Sadat-Begin trio is merely theatrics, and that what happened last week is no more than a new act in this play.

Let us remember what our leader Al-Asad said in his recent historic speech: "If the Zionist enemy, world imperialism and their agents calculate that they can achieve their aims, their plans will be proved wrong. They are concluding a deal that smacks of perfidy and collusion in order to achieve a parasitic profit at the expense of right, justice and history. If they insist on ascribing the word peace to what they are doing, we say that they are making the peace of war and not the peace of security, because the peace of security is the peace of consensus, and the peace of consensus is based on justice."

The truth is that our country wants this masquerade to come to an end, because its end will be the beginning of a real separation of the strugglers and revolutionaries on one hand, and the defeatists and conspirators on the other. Our country and the Arab nation have chosen the path of steadfastness and confrontation, the path of justice, the path of honor and dignity, and have opted to shoulder the burden of this choice, the choice of the difficult and thorny road, the choice of hoisting the banner of steadfastness.

ALGERIA

PAPERS SCORE MOROCCAN STATEMENT ON RIGHT OF PURSUIT

LD111435 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Mar 79 LD

[Excerpts] As the days pass the Saharan cause is scoring more and more victories through the struggle of the Saharan people, both on the political and military levels. In contrast to these victories, the monarchy in Rabat is undergoing more and more setbacks and severe defeats, thus becoming more threatened with collapse than ever before, especially after the deterioration of the tragic situation of the Moroccan masses as a result of the monarchy's expanionist policy in Western Sahara.

It seems that the maneuvers of Hassan II and his attempts to get his regime out of the morass in which it is stuck have now run out. Therefore, he is now resorting to his old misleading trick, namely, suggesting to the Moroccan public that there is an external threat to Morocco's unity and national security. The king claims that this threat, which incidentally exists only in his sick imagination, comes from Algeria. Thus only the day before yesterday he took the initiative of producing a pathetic farce by presiding over an extraordinary session of the assembly and announcing the establishment of what he termed the Council of National Defence. The king's pseudo-parliament passed a motion to the effect that the king has the right to pursue the Saharan revolutionaries, thereby violating the national territorial integrity of the Algeria. This is the same so-called right that Hassan II has long threatened to exercise against our country in an attempt to scare our people into abandoning their absolute solidarity with the past Saharan cause.

The recent farcical initiative of Hassan II is the subject of commentaries by our national press this morning. Under the title "He Who Sows Wind," the paper ASH-SHA'B writes: When the repressed Moroccan masses become agitated, Hassan II proclaims that a threat is coming from Algeria; and when the Moroccan worker demands bread, the king brandishes the threat of launching an aggression against neighbors; and when he sees that dissatisfaction with the situation in the country has engulfed Morocco, even its army circles, the king asks for a national consensus to face up to external aggression. The recent decision of the king, the paper adds, is considered a move to further avoid problems and an attempt to obstruct the dynamics of peace in the region. This behavior continues to be a challenge to African opinion, to the OAU, to international opinion and to all the UN resolutions. King Hassan II must fully realize, the paper concludes, that any adventure will be a coup de grace to him, because he who sows wind, reaps storms.

Commenting on the same subject, the daily EL MOUDJAHID says: All the signs are that the Moroccan monarchy is on the verge of committing a big mistake that will entail dire consequences. As a matter of fact, the statement issued by the Moroccan Chamber of Deputies on the right of pursuit carried by MAP and the following measures and statements resemble in many ways those voices heard on the eve of wars. EL MOUDJAHID concludes: We hope that Hassan II will be more realistic than his Chamber of Deputies and think twice before implementing his statement, because any aggression against Algeria will have just one result: It will hasten his downfall, since the least that can be said about the Algerian people is that they will not stand by with their arms folded in the event of extreme situations like the one called for by the expanionist Moroccan regime.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DISCUSSES GOVERNMENT TASKS

LD142234 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Mar 79 LD

[Statement by the Algerian Council of Ministers issued in Algiers on 14 March]

[Text] The Council of Ministers held its first session after the Cabinet reshuffle today, 14 March 1979, at 1000 at the Presidency under Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the party. The meeting was devoted to the president's directives concerning the tasks required at the current stage and the methods to be used to accomplish them. Also government work for the coming months was planned. The president said that the changes in the government structures were in response to the hopes and aspirations of the strugglers which had been crystallized in the resolutions of the fourth FLN congress and that changes in the structures should be consolidated by (?the force of action and sacrifices).

In this context the president stressed the following points: In the first place the government's task is to shoulder the tasks of administration and the implementation of development plans, including solution of the daily problems facing citizens in all sectors. The concentration of the tasks of implementation and development has become possible after the restructuring of the leaderships of the country's institutions and the party in order to shoulder the tasks of planning and political guidance. Secondly, decision-making is not sufficient; interest should be shown in coordination among the various ministries and government interests, following up the decisions and seeing to it that they are implemented meticulously and finding solutions to the daily problems of the masses and in the foremost the elimination of bureaucracy. Thirdly, the nation's cadres do not belong to anyone and the best way to benefit from them requires making available conditions of constructive dialog inside the administrative bodies and guaranteeing stability which should not prevent punishment of the elements which prove to be harmful and [word indistinct] not to show forgiveness regarding all that harms national property and the country's wealth. Fourthly, the party and the mass organizations represent a base of struggle connected to the problems of the people, and members of the government and state interests should work in all sectors to strengthen links with those organizations and organize a dialog with them in order to find suitable solutions to existing problems.

Prime Minister Ahmad 'Abd al-Ghani explained the action program awaiting the government in the coming months which includes in particular continuation of the evaluation of results of the development plans, studying issues which were postponed because of the difficult conditions which the country experienced, and the taking of certain urgent measures in a number of sectors.

PAPER SEES MOROCCO BRANDISHING 'SPECTER OF WAR'

LD141513 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 9-10 Mar 79 p 6 LD

[B. Amazit commentary: "Hassan II Again Brandishes Specter of War"]

[Text] "In the belief that the Saharan affair has reached the threshold of intolerability, King Hassan II announced Thursday evening the creation of a national defense council in which all the parties, including opposition parties which have seats in parliament, will be represented," the press agencies report.

This is a real appeal for general mobilization that the Rabat monarch has addressed to the Moroccan people. The appeal is all the more explicable since this is one of the rare occasions when the Moroccan sovereign has made it clear that he is experiencing a "difficult situation in the south of the country." In other words, this signifies that the successes scored by the Saharan people's liberation army fighters in their "Houari Boumediene" offensive are not "inventions," as the royal palace claimed, but great victories which the king has been unable to "stomach."

However this is not the only possible explanation for this new raising of swords by Rabat. There are other, unconfessed motives which governed the decision to create, under the monarchist banner, a new "sacred" alliance--not for the purpose of invasion, as was the case over 3 years ago, but around the concept of "the nation in danger," a theme dear to imperiled monarchs. It is well known these days that when a regime is deeply shaken by its own contradictions it always resorts to the "foreign threat" and artificially creates an imaginary enemy against which domestic public opinion is directed and driven to chauvinism or even national hysteria. It is something like this that is happening in the shady dens of the royal palace.

In the first place the regime is concerned to restore its prestige, tarnished by successive defeats on both the military and diplomatic fronts by the POLISARIO, which has recently won genuine victories in the field at Lemsaiel (near El Aaiun) and inside Morocco at Tan-Tan. Moreover, the wave of recognitions which marked the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic's third anniversary (Socialist Republic of Vietnam and Ethiopia) has confirmed the Saharan liberation movement's ever growing audience among international public opinion, an audience which is due to a large extent to the Saharan people's determination to snatch their freedom and dignity by force of arms, whatever the cost.

Furthermore, the peace movement generated by the change which took place in Mauritania and the southern front decision has considerably increased Rabat's isolation, even though in practice the new regime in Nouakchott has as yet done nothing to confirm the new leaders' peaceful intentions and their desire to find a solution to the situation they helped to worsen by their invasion of the Western Sahara in November 1975. Nevertheless, the many declarations by Ould Saleck's government embarrass Morocco, which expects to be deserted by its former partner.

In addition, we must add to this the difficulty the monarchy is apparently having in continuing a war effort which is a grave burden on the country's economy, as well as Hassan II's difficulty in obtaining weapons, even from some of his most traditional allies. His trips to Western countries have apparently ended in failure, according to observers who believe that Morocco's partners want to see a healthier climate return to this part of the African Continent.

Moreover, if the Moroccan king is "calling his citizens to arms" in these special circumstances, this is largely due to the domestic situation in his kingdom. Indeed, over the past few months we have witnessed a definite deterioration in the social and political climate,which has been marked in particular by several strikes in various important economic sectors, among which we will mention for the record transport and education. This "idea" of creating a vast rally around "national defense" will enable the monarchy to camouflage all the real problems once again and to direct the people's anger elsewhere, beyond the borders, against Algeria for example. As usual the Moroccan sovereign once again alluded to our country, which he accuses of having "created a no war, no peace situation with all the disadvantages and consequences of a state of war."

The refrain is well known on our side: This neighboring country only has to be in difficulties for its leaders to accuse Algeria. Thus, after terrorist provocation the monarchy brandishes the specter of war, saying that our country has not "responded favorably to its overtures for peace." But what kind of peace has been offered to us but the kind which involves renouncing our principles and our virtues for which we have paid the tribute in blood--peace on the backs of the Saharan people, rather as As-Sadat wants to built it over the bodies of the Palestinians. It is true that consultations between Israel's two new allies are frequent and fruitful.... Algeria has said no to these calculations constructed on peoples' tombs; on the contrary, it has once again reaffirmed its strong determination to help and support the Saharan people in their heroic struggle to enforce a just solution in this part of the Maghreb.

By speaking of "no war, no peace" Hassan II is confronting himself with a dangerous prospect. Such an algernative signifies that it remains to opt once and for all either for war or for peace. Rabat's latest declarations are dangerous in that, far from bearing the seeds of peace, they in fact augur ominously for the future.

PROTOCOL ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SIGNED WITH USSR

LD150246 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 14 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The protocol to an important agreement with the USSR, under which the USSR will supply Algeria with necessary equipment and technical assistance for the Ministry of Housing and Construction, was signed at the ministry today.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI RECEIVES PDRY DEFENSE MINISTER

LD141602 Tripoli JANA in English 1437 GMT 14 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 14, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The leader of the Great First of September Revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, received 'Ali Ahmad Nasir Antar, the minister of defence in the Yemen People's Democratic Republic, who is currently visiting the Jamahiriyah.

MESSAGE FROM TRIPOLI-BASED EGYPTIAN BODY TO AL-QADHDHAFI

LD142100 Tripoli JANA in English 1757 GMT 14 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 14, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The leader of the Great 1st of September Revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received a cable from the Egyptian revolutionary committee in Tripoli, in response to the Benghazi revolutionary statement.

In the cable, the Egyptian revolutionary committee affirmed that the Egyptian masses will realize the prophecies of the guardian of Arab nationalism, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. They will wash the streets of Cairo to wipe off the disgrace caused by the visit of Carter, the leader of imperialism and by the one who invited him to soil the land of Egypt, of Arabism and Islam, of Orabi, 'Abd an-Nasir and the glorious 23rd July revolution.

The committee also declared that the militant Egyptian popular masses will not tolerate [words indistinct] of their will, blemishing their reputation and spoiling her national and Arab image through Carter's alleged reception, and the false support for the crime of selling Egypt and Palestine to American imperialism and its protege Zionism, the crime committed by the reactionary agent, As-Sadat.

In its cable to the leader of the revolution, the Egyptian revolutionary committee said: "The fate of the treaties signed by the agent As-Sadat, his masters the imperialists and his allies the Zionist usurpers is similar to the fate of As-Sadat himself: the dustbin."

TRIPOLI CLAIMS AS-SADAT TO COMMIT 'ULTIMATE CRIME'

LD142020 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Mar 79 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The ultimate crime is about to be committed at any moment. The ultimate crime, without any doubt or confusion, is the signing by the defeated Egyptian president of the capitulation agreement with the usurping aggressive Zionist entity. The target of this ultimate crime and its victim are specifically two sides, the Egyptian Arab people and the Arab nation, peoples and states.

The big question which is being asked at this decisive historic moment in the history of the Arab nation--to which the Egyptian Arab people belong--is: Will the crime be allowed to take place? And if the black traitor commits it, then what is the stand of the two sides toward the crime and toward its black perpetrator?

To both Egypt and its people this ultimate crime represents a major catastrophe and a period of black mourning and bitter sadness. The ultimate crime represents to Egypt and to its Arab people a violation of their honor and dignity, a waste of their prestige, a squandering of all their enormous national assets and a loss of the blood of hundreds of thousands of their martyrs who were killed on the land of Palestine, Sinai, the Delat and lower Egypt.

The black traitor will find himself facing the anger of the Egyptian Arab millions. He will find himself facing a sweeping popular hurricane destroying in its path all the agents, traitors, hypocrites and the sick in Egypt, naturally headed by the black traitor, the high priest and the senior Free Mason. The people of Egypt will wash the Egyptian streets and all the Egyptian land with blood to remove from it the dishonor of Carter, As-Sadat and Begin, and to chase away the hordes of the new tartars whom As-Sadat has allowed to march on Egypt under the banner of false and sham peace, the banners of capitulation, treachery and betrayal.

We are confident that Egypt, its people and its army will not let the crime occur and that it will rise, and show its anger to foil the crime and the criminals and to regain its national role and pan-Arab feature.

As for the Arab nation, masses and stages, it is time (?to be serious). The hour of revolutionary action has struck and the moment is due when (?ignoring) the truth is of no use: self-truth, truth to the sacred Arab cause and the truth to history and to God, God of all.

When the ultimate crime is close to being committed, the Arab nation has entered the dangerous stage: to be or not to be. Will hope remain or will the Arab nature of Palestine and its liberation be lost forever? Will the Arab nation march along the path of perdition, deterioration and oblivion? What will decide all this and will show which path the Arab nation will follow, with its masses and states, is the stand it will adopt if the crime is committed and the capitulatory and treacherous agreement is signed. The Arab nation, masses and states are now ready for the test, the test of being faithful to all its values, sanctities, the test of preserving its nation, destiny and future.

The resolutions of the Baghdad summit now are ready for the test, those resolution which received Arab unanimity to punish the black traitor and to deter him if he signs the agreement of humiliation, capitulation and treachery. We are utterly confident that the Arab nation, masses and states will be up to the level of the historic stand and will abide by its statement in Baghdad. The black traitor, his colonial masters and his Zionist allies will learn that the Egyptian people and army and the Arab nation, masses and states will not let the crime occur and will not let the criminal traitors live and remain.

STAFF MAJOR JALLUD RECEIVES AHMAD JIBRIL

ID140050 Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 13 Mar 79 ID

[Text] Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud at noon today received Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-general command.

AMBASSADOR TO CHAD LEAVES ABOARD FRENCH PLANE

JN121616 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 12 Mar 79 JN

[Text] N'djamena, 12 March--SUNA has learned that the Libyan ambassador here has contacted the French ambassador and asked him to provide the Libyan mission with an aircraft to transport himself and Libyan Embassy officials out of Chad. The French ambassador agreed to the request by his Libyan counterpart. The Libyan diplomats were flown to the capital of Gabon from where they will proceed to Libya.

During the war in Chad, the Libyan ambassador remained a prisoner in his house as a result of the shooting.

On the other hand, the Libyan ambassador remained a guest of the Sudanese until he left Chad. [sentence as received]

JANA CITES PARIS PAPER ON EGYPTIAN FORCES AT BORDER

ID131614 Tripoli JANA in English 1446 GMT 13 Mar 79 ID

[Text] Paris, March 13, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--AN-NAHAR, AL-'ARABI WA AD-DAWLI published in Paris quoted a well informed Arab source as saying that it is certain now that a squadron of the Egyptian Air Force is positioned on the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah's borders in addition to 600 tanks, armoured battalions and radar equipment transferred from Sinai by orders of the defeated Egyptian president.

The Arab source explained that by doing this as well as by sending forces to Oman and (?Zaire), the Egyptian president wants to show his good will to replace the shah as a policeman for the imperialist interests in the area.

The newspapers added that the Libyan oil which "tickles the imagination of the defeated Egyptian president", is the main target behind the Egyptian mobilization, especially if the Sinai oil fields should be given up to the fascist (Israeli) enemy.

ROMANIAN DEPUTY PREMIER ARRIVES IN TRIPOLI

LD141510 Tripoli JANA in English 0827 GMT 14 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 14 March, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The Romanian deputy prime minister, Ion Patan, arrived in Tripoli yesterday evening on a visit to the Jamahiriyah due to last several days.

Mr. Patan was met at Tripoli International Airport by the oil secretary, 'Izz ad-Din al-Mabruk, the Romanian ambassador to the Jamahiriyah and a representative from the protocol department at the Foreign Secretariat.

In a statement to the JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY correspondent, Mr. Patan said that his visit to the Jamahiriyah comes within the context of the development of bilateral relations between the Jamahiriyah and Romania, in the economic and technical fields, for the interests of the two peoples. He also praised the existing relations between the two countries.

Al-Mabruk, Patan Meeting

LD142116 Tripoli JANA in English 1740 GMT 14 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 14, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Mr. 'Izz ad-Din al-Mabruk, the secretary of the General People's Committee for Oil, held a meeting with the Romanian deputy prime minister, Mr. Ion Patan.

During the meeting which was attended by the Romanian ambassador to the Jamahiriyah, bilateral cooperation in oil matters and means of promoting it were discussed.

Ash-Sharif, Patan Meeting

LD142118 Tripoli JANA in English 1742 GMT 14 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 14, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The secretary of the General People's Committee for Economy, Mr. Abu Bakr ash-Sharif, this morning received Mr. Ion Patan, the Romanian deputy prime minister.

The Romanian ambassador to the Jamahiriyah joined the meeting which discussed aspects of trade cooperation between the Jamahiriyah and Romania as well as the possibility of increasing the bulk of trade exchange and the preparations for the meetings of the Libyan Arab-Romanian joint committee due to start next April.

Al-Muntassir, Patan Meeting

LD142120 Tripoli JANA in English 1756 GMT 14 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 14, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The heavy industry secretary, Umar Mustafa al-Muntassir, this morning met with the Romanian deputy prime minister, Mr. Ion Patan, who arrived here yesterday, in the presence of the Romanian ambassador to the Jamahiriyah. Bilateral cooperation in industrial fields was discussed.

MOROCCO

FOREIGN MINISTER BOUCETTA HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

LD141800 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Mar 79 LD

[Text] M'hamed Boucetta, minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation, held a press conference this morning. He replied to questions from national and international press correspondents on the situation in northwest Africa and Morocco's attitude to its territorial integrity and its national sovereignty.

At the beginning of the press conference, Mr Boucetta reviewed the latest developments in the region and Morocco's attitude to these developments in light of his majesty's speech to the Chamber of Deputies and the statement of the Chamber of Deputies in this connection. The minister of state said:

[Boucetta--begin recording] In the name of the Almighty, the all-merciful: Ladies and gentlemen, first I would like to welcome you before replying to your questions and also to express my pleasure at meeting you and talking to you about the latest developments in our region.

Our country has recently been the target of an intensified campaign of spreading lies, doubts and poison and this campaign reached an unprecedented degree of gravity. His majesty the king then decided to address the Chamber of Deputies at an extraordinary session and also to address the nation in his capacity as the one responsible for the country's independence and territory within its true boundaries and in accordance with the provisions of the constitution.

In his speech, his majesty made known his intention of making the whole nation participate in the various efforts being exerted by way of the establishment of a council to include representatives of all organized political trends. The council will be given the task of defining and implementing a policy which will aim at protection our national soil and the security of the state. Following the speech, the Chamber of Deputies unanimously approved a statement in which it proposed a number of measures to preserve the territorial integrity and the national unity of the country. When his majesty received in audience a delegation of deputies led by the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, the delegation gave his majesty the statement, which was endorsed by the representatives of the people. His majesty then insisted on underlining his deep conviction that whenever Morocco unanimously adopts a resolution of all the citizens, it remains steadfast, not hesitating and not retreating from it. When his majesty mentioned our determination to remain mobilized so as to fight the great battle in defense of the integrity of our country, he did not fail to mention our country's adherence to the unity of the peoples of the greater Maghreb, nor his conviction that the rest of this century and the whole of the next century will see greater groupings, cooperation and integration.

This, ladies and gentlemen, is a brief review of the developments of events. I am now ready to reply to your questions regarding the diplomatic aspects of Morocco's policy in this respect, especially as a number of press correspondents and agencies have requested this meeting so as to clarify these aspects, and especially since it was decided, as you know, that the OAU Committee of Wisemen was due to visit our country this week. [end recording]

[Announcer] After this introduction, the minister of state began to reply to questions put to him by journalists.

Replying to a question about the Chamber of Deputies' statement rejecting any proposal for a discussion of the Sahara issue by international organizations, he said that Morocco--which means what it says about the Sahara issue being an internal issue--has put forward fresh statements: Morocco rejects any discussions or talks which do not confirm the above fact, since the Sahara has been restored in accordance with the norms of international law and after the decision of the international court of justice and after the Moroccan-Mauritanian-Spanish agreement in Madrid. Despite the fact that Morocco considers the Sahara to be national soil, it has been anxious for the population of the Sahara to express their viewpoint. This came through the Jama'ah [local assembly in Sahara] and through participation in the green march and also in the elections, bearing in mind that the inhabitants of the Sahara regions reasserted their Moroccanism in 1953 when the late King Mohammad V was sent into exile and on the occasion of his return from exile and the declaration of the country's independence.

The minister of state was also asked about Morocco's attitude to the Moroccan-Mauritanian treaties in the light of the new developments. He replied that Morocco would try to consolidate ties of cooperation that exist between Morocco and Mauritania on the basis of the treaties between them and on the basis that anything that harms the security of either of the two parties must be considered jointly. Mr Boucetta announced that he would be visiting Mauritania; at the same time he said that all current rumors regarding relations between the two countries are aimed at spreading poison in the region and at throwing doubt on Moroccan-Mauritanian relations of cooperation.

Replying to a question about the reasons for severing relations between Morocco and Ethiopia and for the recalling of the Moroccan ambassador from Syria, Mr Boucetta explained that the two issues were different. Ethiopia, the African state, has recognized the so-called POLISARIO and the Saharan state. Morocco interprets this as being open interference in its internal affairs and as a provocative act. Morocco severed relations with Ethiopia since it is not reasonable for Ethiopia to have two embassies in the same territory and in the same state, namely Morocco.

As for Syria, Mr Boucetta added that some Syrian information media have harmed the Moroccan cause by presenting this cause in a manner which is not consistent with the facts.

The minister also replied to a question about the visit to the region by the OAU Committee of Wisemen. He said that Morocco had agreed to the program for the committee's stay in Morocco, with regard to the committee's arrival in Morocco and its departure, and also the length of its stay, which was to be on 15, 16 and 17 of this month. But Morocco was surprised by Algeria's refusal to receive the committee.

Asked whether the committee was to visit Madrid, too, Mr Boucetta said: Morocco has no knowledge of this; the countries directly concerned with the tension in the region are Morocco, Mauritania and Algeria.

Asked if the dialog with Algeria had finally come to a halt, the minister replied that the dialog actually came to a halt 2 or 3 years ago. Despite this, Morocco and His Majesty King Hassan II in particular have tried in recent weeks and months to keep the door to dialog open. But Morocco, he regretted, has not found a similar readiness from Algeria, adding that the Algerians maintain that the dialog is weakness.

Replying to a question about France's attitude, Mr Boucetta said that our country expects more understanding from France and that Morocco has received all the necessary reassurances regarding France's attitude to Morocco's sovereignty and territorial integrity. In this respect, he stressed the personal friendly relations between his majesty the king and the French president.

That was a summary of the questions and answers put in French. Here is a recording of the questions and answers put in Arabic. [begin recording]

[Question] In the speech he made last night on Algerian television, the Algerian president said that Morocco has embarked on the escalation of its campaign against Algeria with the aim of a comprehensive military confrontation. May we know if diplomatic contacts with Algeria have come to a halt and how?

[Answer] Diplomatic contacts with Algeria stopped a long time ago, 2 or 3 years ago. Comments by the Algerian radio regarding Morocco are in fact not likely to contribute to making relations good. There has been nothing new, as you know, for several weeks in official statements. Therefore I do not see that there are, at present, diplomatic contacts which are likely to be impeded for this reason. As far as the Moroccan side is concerned, we have tried in the past weeks and months--and his majesty the king has tried in particular--to keep the door open for dialog and to maintain all the bridges which must link the two peoples in this region. But I regret to say that we are not getting a response from the other party. Each time we adopt a flexible stand or a stand which seeks to construct these bridges, we meet with antipathy from the other party and so much so that in some cases our stands have been interpreted as weakness in this region. But all the time we have avoided anything that would deepen the rift.

As far as the future is concerned, we consider the unity of the peoples of the Arab Maghreb as a pressing issue and necessary; it is bound to come despite the present obstacles. We have therefore always tried to preserve this future, but this will never take place at our own expense or at the expense of our territorial integrity.

[Question] In his message to you, former Algerian Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika said that disagreement between Algeria and Morocco is not confined to the Sahara issue, but it goes further and embraces the Middle East and the Palestinian issues. What is the nature of Morocco's attitude to these issues? Will Morocco implement the resolutions adopted by the Baghdad Arab summit to boycott Egypt should it sign the separate peace treaty with Israel?

[Answer] Perhaps the interpretations of certain clauses of the letters exchanged need clarification. His majesty the king clarified this, in fact, in his recent speech to the Chamber of Deputies and to the nation. The suspension of the meeting which was to have taken place between his majesty and the late President Houari Boumediene was caused--as far as we know--only by the illness of the late President Boumediene.

The interpretations which were made and which attributed that matter or that suspension to the so-called attitude of each of the two countries to the Middle East issue are, in our view, based on feeble and incorrect reasons. Morocco's attitude on the issue of the Middle East is clear and this attitude has been underlined by his majesty on all occasions. I need only mention the recent ones; those since his visit to Washington and the occasions on which his majesty has expressed Morocco's attitude to this issue since then. Finally, there was the king's speech to parliament and to the nation. Morocco's attitude is quite clear; Morocco adheres to the resolutions adopted by the 1974 Rabat summit. You know these resolutions and I need not repeat them, but it must be said in these circumstances that the king's speech stresses that what takes place in the region concerns us, in view of our interest in it, also because it reflects on us, and because we are a party to it.

There can be no just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region without resolving the Palestinian problem and without giving the Palestinian people the right to self-determination and the right to set up their state; this people is represented by the PLO. This was among the Rabat resolutions. There must be a withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories; Israel's stubborness is the reason for the tension in the region and explains why the existing state of affairs continues there despite the efforts which have been made by other parties to [word indistinct] the condition so as to reach a solution. This was the viewpoint which we put forward at the Baghdad summit. We stressed that we will always remain as we have done: at the forefront of those who honor their promises and undertakings, we, for this purpose, are within the Arab majority.

As for the first question [as heard] I think the answer was clear. Regarding our stand on the Middle East and the (?talks) that are taking place now I think the answer was also clear.

Regarding the second question [as heard] on the fact that there is a new regime in Iran and that recent attitudes have recently been adopted in this connection: These attitudes have to be evaluated. If this regime says that it needs information, we shall await their evaluation of it. As far as we are concerned and whether the matter concerns Iran or some other party, our attitude is clear. As I have said the question of the Sahara is not a question of colonialism, nor is it a question of a liberation organization; it is a question of restoring part of a territory to its origin and nature. Colonialism ended there through the struggle of the Moroccans. We regard the issue as merely an internal one; any [word indistinct] in it is interference in our internal affairs.

[Question] Morocco's decision to sever diplomatic relations with Ethiopia was a new trend in Moroccan policy. Will there be Moroccan diplomatic contacts to explain this trend, and will the same attitude be taken toward any state which recognizes or supports the POLISARIO?

[Answer] I believe that as far as our relations with Syria are concerned, the question has had more than enough [word indistinct]. With regard to Ethiopia, I have already explained Morocco's attitude in connection with the decision adopted in this respect. In fact, this is not something new. But at one time flexible (?attitudes) were adopted in this connection. It can be said that at the beginning several countries recognized the POLISARIO, or the so-called Saharan Republic; they did this under pressure or in certain circumstances. Some of them (?informed us) of the possibility of retreating from those stands and some of them showed that during international meetings.

But it was necessary at this stage in order that matters did not remain unexplained by Morocco, which is concerned about the issue in the first place, and so that everybody will know that when we say that this is an integral part of our soil, we mean that we cannot accept that this part is recognized [as the Saharan Republic] and we are recognized at the same time; let those who want to choose on this issue make their choice. We shall always be prepared to come to an understanding and to reconsider the attitude with those who want to do so on the basis of this [word indistinct]. But we are always prepared to put an end to [words indistinct], whether African or not African. [applause] [end recording]

GOVERNMENT REPORTS VICTORY IN BATTLE WITH 'MERCENARIES'

LD132050 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Mar 79 LD

[Summary] Once again the mercenary gangs suffered defeat while they were getting ready to launch an attack yesterday. The mercenaries lost over 100 dead in the battlefield during fierce fighting. Once again the royal armed forces achieved success and victory over the mercenary forces.

"The Ministry of State for Information published a communique in this connection. Here is the text of the communique:

"Following information received by the advance general command of the royal armed forces in El Aaium to the effect that four enemy regiments were preparing an attack in the region between (Tigi) and (Bamiyat Tilban) south of Semara, Moroccan units launched an attack on the aforementioned regiments on Monday, 12 March. This resulted in annihilating and totally ousting the enemy from the region. The fierce clashes lasted all day and resulted in heavy losses in the ranks of the enemy in men and materiel provisionally estimated as follows: over 100 dead; the enemy left 60 bodies on the battlefield; 17 vehicles destroyed; 6 jeeps, 1 covered truck and 5 [words indistinct] guns set on fire; and 1 gun as well as 7 Kalashnikov automatic rifles, 4 30-mm machineguns, 7 (Fal) rifles and 10 boxes of equipment seized.

"The Moroccan losses were as follows: 19 dead, 49 wounded and 7 burned out jeeps."

WESTERN SAHARA

SAHARAN FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON SITUATION

LD141238 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1545 GMT 13 Mar 79 LD/EA

["Africa in Focus" program]

[Text] The war between POLISARIO on the one hand and Morocco and Mauritania on the other has entered its 4th year. So far there are no signs of peace. However, POLISARIO has declared a ceasefire with Mauritania, and Mauritania has been talking about a referendum for the future of Western Sahara. Well, what is POLISARIO thinking? This is what we asked the foreign minister of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, Comrade Ibrahim Hakim, in Addis Ababa last week. He responds through an interpreter: [begin recording]

[Hakim in Arabic, fading to English translation] Concerning the declaration of Mauritania, Mauritania is an occupying colonial force in the Sahran country which has committed crimes, historical crimes.

The proposal of Mauritania--we consider it a new bullet directed to the chest of the Saharan people and struggling masses. We opened the door of peace. We opened the door of peace. We opened the dynamics of peace. But (?till) today, the Mauritanians don't have the initiative of [word indistinct] peace and patience has a limit.

[Question] Don't you feel that the ceasefire is a mistake?

[Answer] I don't believe that the ceasefire is a mistake. The mistake, if it exists, is that Mauritania does not catch on to the historical fact of the peace offered to them.

[Question] Recently the Moroccan Government has been receiving support from the United States militarily. Did this decision come as a surprise to you?

[Answer] (?On the contrary); till today the Congress refuses to supply Morocco with weapons. If Morocco is on the defensive, any military help to Morocco (?agitates) the situation and internationalist cooperation in the area will be difficult.

[Question] The Moroccans were hopeful that with the death of President Boumediene, Algeria could be more accommodating to Morocco.

[Answer] The Algerian revolution is a revolution built on principles. Algeria does not only help the Saharans. It helps every revolutionary on this globe.

[Question] Since the Mauritius summit in 1976 the OAU heads of state have been calling for a summit on Western Sahara. But almost after 3 years no summit has been held. "Why?"is the question we asked Comrade Hakim, and what is POLISARIO thinking about this?

[Answer] The organization was under the leadership and the chairmanship of some of the heads of state who are known by their contribution to imperialism and they were targeting [word indistinct] postponing this very gathering of the summit. Lately, in Khartoum, the same African heads of state decided and recommended that such a summit should take place.

They made a special committee. But this should be on the shoulder of the responsible of the organization [as heard], the secretary general and the chairman. But none of them have tried to take a chance--especially last month--to take a chance of this committee to be a tool directed against the rights of the Saharan masses. But the POLISARIO front has spoiled that maneuver. Now we welcome such a committee. The target of such a committee should be to prepare a summit concerning the problem of Sahara.

[Question] Is the military situation this year better than that of last year?

[Answer] Today, its strategy is to hit inside Morocco, in the very heart of Morocco, in its own land. The balance of power today is in the hands of the Saharans. It is not in the hands of Morocco. Hassan II will have the very same fate of Ould Daddah, and he will join him soon. [end recording]

BEGIN MAKES STATEMENT AT END OF CABINET SESSION

TA141519 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1457 GMT 14 Mar 79 TA

[Israeli Prime Minister Begin statement in Hebrew and English after Cabinet session at the prime minister's office in Jerusalem--live]

[Text] Today I cannot answer questions. I will just make a statement in Hebrew and then in English and you will have to release me; the truth is, and this is the reason, I have a cold and I need a little rest. You will doubtlessly understand this.

[Begin--in English] Ladies and gentlemen, I will make a statement today, a very short one, and I will not be able today, exceptionally, to answer your questions, because I caught a cold, and it happened in Jerusalem, and by doctors' orders I have to go and have some rest. So you will have to indulge me and, after having made the statement both in Hebrew and in English, you will let me go home, won't you? You are all friends, certainly. Well, no problem. Thank you very much indeed.

[Begin--Hebrew] Ladies and gentlemen, a few minutes ago I ended a telephone call with the President of the United States, Mr Jimmy Carter and I told him that the two last problems which had remained for solution had been solved through a positive decision by the Cabinet. The President was happy to receive this announcement.

Further Details on Cabinet Vote

TA141507 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1431 GMT 14 Mar 79 TA

[Political correspondent Yosi 'Abadi at the prime minister's office--live]

[Text] [Words indistinct] the Cabinet meeting which discussed the U.S. proposals which President as-Sadat had accepted. The proposals were approved by the Cabinet and on Sunday the Cabinet will hold an additional session, where it will approve the entire treaty. Apparently, at that Sunday session the Cabinet will also discuss the autonomy issue, in accordance with a decision it made about 2 months ago.

The U.S. proposals were approved by a majority of 15 ministers for. One minister, Zevulun Hammer, put off his vote because he claims he did not receive an answer to a question he asked. He therefore postponed his vote until the Sunday session. Another minister, Hayim Landau, did not participate in the session; he left in the middle for personal reasons.

The U.S. proposals which were approved stated that ambassadors will be exchanged between Israel and Egypt within 9 months. In return for this, Israel will publicize the detailed timetable for the withdrawal from the Sinai--the timetable for the first stage of the withdrawal which is supposed to end within 9 months. Similarly, an arrangement described by the ministers as satisfactory was reached regarding the oil issue. This agreement was approved by the Cabinet. Thus, the two disputed articles which were unsolved were removed when the Cabinet accepted the U.S. proposals accepted by As-Sadat. The road is open to the approval of the peace treaty by the Cabinet and, later, by the Knesset.

Our correspondent 'Oded Shahar reports some reactions of ministers, reactions he gathered at the end of the session:

[Shahar] Well, Minister Zevulun Hammer [words indistinct] refused to answer questions. Minister David Levi says: A large step was made, we are close to signing but this still requires a final conclusion in a few days' time. He says that the treaty is the outcome of a struggle and proof that firm insistence can also produce favorable results. Minister Gid'on Pat says that the discussion on autonomy will take place before the peace treaty is brought to the Knesset. This was decided a long time ago and, obviously, the Cabinet will discuss this before the treaty is signed and approved. Energy and Infrastructure Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i says: The Cabinet has somewhat deviated from its previous decisions. Otherwise it would not have had to sit today and discuss them. Minister Moshe Nisim says: There are still several issues to be discussed; the Cabinet will discuss them, the Knesset will convene and discuss the peace treaty next week. The Cabinet made decisions that would not have been accepted if they were not possible to accept.

Religious Affairs Minister Aharon Abu-Hatzera says: Today's decisions open the door for the signing of the peace treaty. The MAFDAL will have a majority to express satisfaction with the Cabinet decision.

Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg says: The discussion [words indistinct] was an old one and as long as it was not changed, it is still valid. So much for information from the prime minister's office in Jerusalem.

WEIZMAN DEPARTS FOR UNITED STATES, MAKES STATEMENT

TA150816 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 15 Mar 79 TA

[Text] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman said that the issues that still remain open do not endanger the treaty between Israel and Egypt. This refers mainly to the interim stages of the IDF's withdrawal to the Al 'Arish-Ra's Muhammad line and other issues. The minister did not elaborate.

Weizman left for Washington this morning where he will meet with his Egyptian counterpart Kamal Hasan 'Ali to agree on the final details of the military appendix to the peace treaty and to prepare it for signing.

In Washington the defense minister will also deal with matters concerning military aid from the United States. He said that agreement has already been reached on the construction of airfields in the Negev. There is also an American response on economic issues but matters have to be finalized.

The defense minister stressed that he and Kamal 'Ali will complete the draft military appendix soon.

Weizman said that he sent a cable to President as-Sadat containing one word: mabruk, congratulations. Weizman praised President as-Sadat saying that he is a brave and great leader. He hopes that the special relationship that developed between him and President as-Sadat will flourish with other Israelis as well.

ENERGY MINISTER MODA'I EXPLAINS CHANGE IN POSITION

TA141920 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 14 Mar 79 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] Minister of Energy and Infrastructure Yitzhaq Moda'i was asked to explain why he changed his view during the week. Was it because of the changes introduced into the agreement in particular the changes in the economic sphere? [begin recording]

[Gid'on Zelinger] A week ago against; today in favor. What changed? Without a target date, after settling the oil issue [as heard], without any further gestures, Minister Moda'i decided to support the Begin-Carter version, in spite of concession on the issue of moving the lines in Sinai.

[Moda'i] There was an Israeli concession here, but the concession was not on substance; that is, we have no argument over whether the IDF will indeed cross the Al 'Arish-Ra's Muhammad line in 9 months. The issue argued was whether this move would be made all at once or in phases and I said, there is an Israeli concession here, but I did not view it as a concession we cannot accept.

[Zelinger] The issue of oil and guaranteeing Israel's energy are, in the nature of things, close to Yitzhaq Moda'i's heart. The U.S. guarantee to supply our needs for some time will not, indeed, prevent continued activity in varying our sources of energy, but it is soothing. It is easy to live with such an insurance policy. And, there is an Egyptian promise which is not, it is true, anchored in writing, to permit Israel to compete in the free market for Egyptian oil.

[Moda'i] This can happen once, twice, three times. If, over the course of time, each time Israel asks to buy from the Egyptians directly or from oil-producing companies working in Egypt it receives a refusal, I will see in this a sign--I hope there will not be any such signs--of a lack of sincerity.

[Zelinger] But if the reference is to genuine peace, this problem will in any event be solved. Thus the question of investments in the development of the Sinai oil fields will also be solved. At this stage, Minister Moda'i has given instructions to continue drilling as long as there is a chance of covering the expenses.

[Moda'i] We will continue with the drilling until that stage when our balance sheet shows that it is no longer possible to receive a return for the investment through producing more oil. But we are far away from that line and in the meantime the work is continuing vigorously. [end recording]

PARTIES REACT TO CABINET APPROVAL OF PROPOSALS

MAFDAL on Autonomy, Treaty

TA142026 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 14 Mar 79 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] The MAFDAL will ask the government to adopt its position on the issue of autonomy. This matter was discussed today at the meeting of the MAFDAL Knesset faction which met to formulate a position on the latest political developments. Our Knesset correspondent Zvi Lidar reports on the meeting:

At today's meeting it emerged that the MAFDAL has formulated very specific proposals on the autonomy issue. The main points of the program, which was formulated by a committee in which the party's ministers participated, are a continuation of settlement in Judaea and Samaria, the IDF guaranteeing security in the sphere of autonomy, granting permission to Jews to acquire lands and keeping the water sources in Israel's possession.

The MAFDAL wants the government to adopt this program and the prevalent view today was that the voting by the party's representatives in the Knesset on the approval of the peace treaty will be, to a great extent, influenced by the Cabinet's definition of the nature of autonomy.

The MAFDAL ministers, who hurried to get to the meeting after the Cabinet session, all stressed the importance of the autonomy issue. However, Minister Zevulun Hammer said that the Cabinet decisions on this issue should not be published so as not to hinder the peace negotiations. The leader of the MAFDAL, Dr Burg, also spoke in this spirit. MK's Glass and Warhaftig and the secretary of Hapo'el Hamizrahi, Rafa'el Ben-Natan, asked that no binding decisions be taken on the issue of autonomy, so as not to bind the Cabinet's hands. Most of the speakers in today's debate expressed satisfaction at the government's achievements in the political negotiations.

Minister Burg said that in the end we had received a prize for the firm stand of the government and even an avowed hawk government had indeed made achievements. But other voices were also heard. MK Ben-Tziyon Rubin said that he did not believe in the agreement and Rabbi Druckman said he hoped for a miracle which would, at the last moment, blow up the agreement.

In view of what was heard today, it appears that most of the MAFDAL members will support approving the peace agreement during the Knesset debate. MK Avtabi did, indeed, demand that there be a united vote by all the MAFDAL members, but David Glass was opposed to this and demanded freedom of voting. He claimed that any binding decision would cause an explosion in the MAFDAL and its splitting. It may be assumed that this time there will be no abstainers in the MAFDAL. Minister Hammer said, at the meeting, that this time, unlike the debate on the Camp David agreements, the reference was to historic political decisions and there should be votes in favor or against.

MAPAM on Vote

TA141926 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1805 GMT 14 Mar 79 TA

[Text] Tel Aviv, 14 Mar--the MAPAM center, in its meeting tonight, has authorized the MAPAM Knesset faction to vote in favor of the peace treaty with Egypt in spite of MAPAM's reservations with regard to the Cabinet's peace plan. In signing peace there is the chance for new dynamics in Israel-Arab relations and it is this which must determine the vote.

The peace treaty with Egypt still does not guarantee calm for our country. As long as we do not find a solution for the West Bank problems and for the national future of the Palestinians, we will not reach true peace. Let us hope that in this matter, too, many will learn how to read the map of our reality as it really is. The quicker this awakening takes place, the more it will save us complications and dangers and will lead us to peace while guaranteeing Israel's safety and calm in the area, the concluding statement says.

Democratic Movement Support of Agreement

TA141928 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1833 GMT 14 Mar 79 TA

[Text] Tel Aviv, 14 Mar--Democratic Movement Secretary General Ram Ron has welcomed with satisfaction the expected signing of the peace agreement and noted once again that the Democratic Movement's path was correct in that it has remained in the Cabinet and has served as an element which supported the prime minister's peace moves.

Ram Ron added that it is to be expected that the vast majority of the Movement Secretariat will meet on Friday to support the agreement the Cabinet approved.

Ram Ron pointed out that now, after peace is achieved, the government of Israel and the Democratic Movement ministers in it will be able to give their full attention to solving the problems of Israel's society and economy.

Shay Welcome of Cabinet Approval

TA142037 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1930 GMT 14 Mar 79 TA

[Text] Tel Aviv, 14 Mar--The Shay Council welcomes the positive conclusion of the peace negotiations between Israel and Egypt. The Shay Council instructs its Knesset faction to vote in favor of approving the proposed peace agreement with Egypt.

ISRAELI CORRESPONDENTS INTERVIEW EGYPT'S BUTRUS GHALI

TA142003 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Mar 79 TA

[Excerpt] In a joint interview with our Cairo envoy Ehud Ya'ari and MA'ARIV correspondent Tamar Golan, the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, Butrus Ghali, said that he was convinced that with faith and good will it is possible to overcome all difficulties. Butrus Ghali said that Egypt is maintaining constant contacts with various circles in the Gaza Strip on the autonomy issue, even though real talks have not yet been launched. Butrus Ghali also said that in return for Egypt's agreement to exchange ambassadors, Israel has withdrawn its objection to divide the first stage of the withdrawal from the Sinai into interim stages. Therefore, the Egyptians are expecting that Israel will first withdraw from the area of the northern coast of the Sinai to Al 'Arish within 2 to 3 months from the day the peace treaty is ratified.

As for the supply of oil, Butrus Ghali confirmed that Egypt would agree to sell Israel oil only at world market prices.

Further Details

TA141021 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 14 Mar 79 TA

[Excerpt] Egyptian Acting Foreign Minister Butrus Ghali welcomed the Israeli Cabinet decision today, which removed the last two obstacles on the road to signing the agreement. He remarked that Egypt is still interested in having its own representation in the Gaza Strip and that the reference is to a liaison office or to some other kind of representation on a consular level.

Ghali stated further that his country has agreed to sell oil to Israel on a commercial basis and at world market prices. There is no Egyptian commitment concerning the quantities of oil or its price, as Israel had demanded.

HA'ARETZ: EARLY ELECTIONS CONSIDERED AFTER PEACE TREATY

TA141050 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Mar 79 p 8 TA

[By Amnon Barzilay]

[Text] We should have early general elections after signing the peace treaty--this was said this week by Defense Minister Weizman in a private talk with one of the Knesset members. The HA'ARETZ correspondent has learned that in recent informal talks personalities in the Likud revealed differences of opinion on the question of whether the Likud should declare early elections after signing the peace treaty with Egypt. To advance the elections the Likud needs a majority of 61 Knesset members. Labor Party Secretary General MK Hayim Bar-Lev has recently said that the Labor Party will support the proposal to advance the elections.

MK Hayim Kaufman the head of the Herut Knesset faction said that if the Likud hawks carry out their threat to withdraw after the signing of the peace treaty, early elections cannot be avoided. According to current estimates a group of four Knesset members headed by Yiga'el Horowitz and Moshe Shamir may withdraw from the Likud. This group also includes MK Ge'ula Kohen, who announced that she will remain in the Herut Movement at least until the party convention in June. In any event, the opinion is that if the Likud loses these four Knesset seats it will have difficulty guaranteeing the Coalition majority and the delicate balance among the Coalition parties in the coming difficulties in domestic affairs. MK Kaufman estimated further that general elections immediately after a peace treaty will strengthen the Likud in light of the public support for it.

Additional Knesset members, as well as liberals such as Knesset Deputy Chairman Moshe Meron and Menahem Savidor, also support advancing the elections.

Among the reasons raised this week it was emphasized that if the elections are advanced Prime Minister Begin's position at the head of the list will be insured. Also the integrity of the major parties composing the Likud will be guaranteed. On the other hand, there is no guarantee that Mr Begin will agree to head the Likud in November 1981, the legal date for the next elections. In these elections, Likud personages claim, the achievements of peace will have been forgotten and instead the issues will include establishing autonomy and the economic problems, which will only weaken the Likud due to internal struggles and loss of public popularity. MK Yosef Rom suggested that they avoid an action along the lines of the "brilliant maneuver" of the Alinement that finally led to its downfall in the early elections.

MK Avraham Sharir, chairman of the Likud faction, said that signing the peace agreement does not mean that all problems are solved. In his view, it is too early to talk of advancing the Knesset elections. Mr Sharir said that one should not fear the withdrawal of the Likud hawks. He said that it is possible that the Democratic Movement, which has seven Knesset members, will join the Likud and strengthen it.

The HA'ARETZ correspondent has learned that in the wake of the expected peace treaty Likud circles may ask Shay, headed by Knesset members Me'ir 'Amit and Amnon Rubinstein to join the government in order to strengthen it.

Press on Peace Approval

TA150721 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 15 Mar 79 TA

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] Yesterday's Cabinet decision and the debate to take place in the Knesset next week are major issues in the editorials on the peace agreements.

HATZOFE writes that the road to signing the peace treaty has been clearly by the removal of the barriers and agreement must be reached on U.S. commitments to Israel. Now the Cabinet's moment of decision on autonomy in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip is approaching. It is the most complex and difficult of the problems and very little is known about it. The continuation of Israeli settlement, the presence of the IDF and insuring essential water sources are the main issues that the Cabinet will have to consider. Insistence on essential Israeli interests will not suit Egypt's position and a lengthy and difficult struggle on autonomy is still expected.

'AL HAMISHMAR writes that an interesting phenomenon can be expected whereby most of the opposition to the agreement will come from the prime minister's camp. This is why it is important that the Alinement appear as a united opposition which will insure a convincing majority in the vote. Since the Camp David agreements it has become clear that the autonomy plan can lead to complications and for this reason a vote expressing reservations on the plan should take place. However, this must not stand in the way of achieving the agreement nor create a link in the public eye between those who have reservations about autonomy and the various extremist groups for whom these reservations are simply a tool to undermine any agreement based on compromise.

In HAMODI'A's opinion, the problem of the linkage between the peace treaty and autonomy has found a verbal solution but we can still expect a difficult struggle. We have no guarantee that a Palestinian state, which we all fear, will not emerge from autonomy. The only element that can prevent a Palestinian state cannot be found in Israel. In view of recent reactions, the Palestinians themselves might pull the chestnuts out of fire for us in the same way that they violated the UN resolutions on the establishment of two countries in Eretz Yisra'el 30 years ago.

SHE'ARIM says that not only does the peace agreement not insure calm for Israel but it is likely to encounter severe difficulties at every step. The vague formulas will lead to more frequent conflicts than has been the case up to now. The guarantees for a lasting peace have not been given and we have heard nothing concrete about them. Carter returned home happy and was showered with praise. He is going to rest and leaves us with the difficult problems which have arisen as a result of the peace whose nature neither the government nor the Knesset know.

The whole issue of a referendum is problematical even in those countries where this is common. However, in the existing circumstances here--with a clear majority in the Knesset and the public, according to all polls and forecasts, favoring the acceptance and ratification of the agreement--it is clear that the proposal to hold a referendum was not made bona fides. In the wake of the Israeli-Egyptian-U.S. understanding, all that remains to be done is to legitimize it as soon as possible according to the parliamentary procedures which have always been used to make far-reaching decisions on Israel's future and fate.

ARABS COMMENT FAVORABLY ON PERES' KNESSET SPEECH, AGREEMENT

TA141118 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 14 Mar 79 p 2 TA

[By Qasim Zayyad]

[Text] MK Shim'on Peres' speech at the Knesset the day before yesterday can, in the opinion of Israeli Arabs, constitute a good basis for a comprehensive peace in the region.

Many of those with whom I spoke expressed their certainty that had the Alinement been in power and had his remarks been made with the approval of the Cabinet they would have surely been seriously considered by the Arab states and the Palestinians themselves.

They expressed the hope that the Begin government will display daring and adopt Peres' remarks, which can lead to a moderation in the positions of the rejectionist countries and can make As-Sadat's predicament easier rather than isolating him in the Arab world or pushing him into the arms of the rejectionist countries.

Some viewed Peres' remarks as tactics and strategy with the intention of criticizing or embarrassing Begin.

The East Jerusalem paper AL-QUDS dedicated a large part of its editorial yesterday to MK Peres' Knesset speech.

AL-QUDS writes: Despite the repetition in Peres' remarks on the well known positions which constitute a rejection of an independent Palestinian state and opposition to a return to the 1967 borders, these remarks contained more than one new and important position.

The paper adds: Peres' remarks, which express the position of the Labor Party, constitute a recognition of the national rights of the Palestinians and mean that Peres is prepared to negotiate with any Palestinian leaders who will recognize the state of Israel. What was implied in his speech is that it is impossible to ignore the Palestinians' rights to set up a homeland.

AL-QUDS views Peres' remarks as an opening for the Palestinians to take an important part in a peace settlement.

ASH-SHA'B, which is known for its support of the PLO, also views Peres' remarks as a recognition of the just rights of the Palestinians, although, according to the paper, these remarks are pervaded by vagueness and lack of clarity. The paper states: As long as there is no clear Israeli announcement recognizing the Palestinians' rights, the Palestinians are not prepared to grope their way in the dark.

Nevertheless, the paper states that the Palestinians support the sincere efforts to establish a just peace in the region.

Al 'Arish Mayor Pleased

TA141524 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 14 Mar 79 TA

[Text] The Mayor of Al 'Arish, Hajj Muhammad 'Abd Allah Tanjir, has reacted with great satisfaction to the agreement in principle to sign the peace treaty. In a talk with our correspondent Bassam Jabir, the mayor of Al 'Arish said that he would soon be organizing a delegation of notables and heads of Bedouin tribes from Sinai which would leave for Egypt to express gratitude for Anwar as-Sadat's efforts to achieve peace.

West Bank Mayors' Comments

TA142048 Tel Aviv Itim in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Mar 79 TA

[Excerpts] Ramallah, 14 Mar--Judaea and Samaria mayors today rejected with disgust the Israeli-Egyptian peace agreement, and some of them even reacted harshly against President as-Sadat. They are now considering taking several steps to express their protest against the treaty, and among other things have already decided to hold a day of national mourning when the peace treaty is signed.

Ramallah Mayor Karim Khalaf said that the treaty is merely "paper words," as MK Ge'ula Kohen stated at the Knesset session with President Carter. In his opinion, this is an agreement which will be signed by As-Sadat, but not by the Egyptian people, as As-Sadat accepted the U.S. proposals without receiving the approval of the Egyptian People's Council. He added that Begin intends to receive Knesset approval for it, while As-Sadat is not prepared to ask his people about it.

Hebron Mayor Rahd al-Qawasimi said that he had rejected the Camp David accords when he failed to find anything about the realization of the desires of the Palestinians to establish their own independent country. In his opinion, the current treaty is a separate treaty which will not promote peace in the area.

Nabulus Mayor Bassam ash-Shak'a said that the treaty ignores the rights of the Palestinian people and its leader, the PLO. In his view, this is a tripartite U.S.-Israeli-Egyptian treaty and if it is signed it will only serve the interests of these countries and will certainly breed new difficulties for the Palestinian people and threaten peace in the region. He says that the treaty also contradicts Jewish interests.

Bethlehem Mayor Elyas Frayj says that he will not support the treaty because it includes nothing to point to a consideration of the rights of the Palestinian people. "I find it hard to conceive of peace between Israel and Egypt when the IDF still demonstrates its presence in the West Bank," he said.

Halhul Mayor Muhammad Hassan Milhim said that this is a treaty which will turn the Middle East into a center of unrest.

The ITIM correspondent remarks that heavy tension prevails among the inhabitants of the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Hostile local elements increase the agitation, especially among schoolchildren. The military government does not foresee a period of quiet in the near future.

At the same time, there are people in the West Bank who believe that As-Sadat, who has sacrificed so much for the Palestinian cause, will not abandon the issue. They believe that As-Sadat's intentions lead, even if in short strides, toward his main goal--the solution of the Palestinian problem.

ISRAELI SOLDIER EXCHANGED FOR PALESTINIAN PRISONERS

TA141220 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 14 Mar 79 TA

[Text] The reserve soldier Avraham 'Amram who accidentally crossed the lines of our forces during the Litani operation and fell into the hands of terrorists about a year ago was released and is on his way to Israel.

The IDF spokesman reports that Avraham 'Amram was released as a result of extended contacts with the Red Cross under the supervision of the minister of defense and with the Cabinet's approval. At the same time Israel agreed to release 76 security prisoners.

About an hour ago the special plane carrying the released prisoner took off from Geneva Airport. Our correspondent Beni Rom said that as soon as the plane lands Avraham 'Amram will undergo a preliminary debriefing and will meet his family.

Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned that two thirds of the prisoners released in Geneva were sentenced for criminal offenses and only a third of them were sentenced for participating in terrorist activities. There are no famous terrorists, whose release is frequently requested by the terrorist organizations, among those released.

The decision to carry out the exchange deal with Ahmad Jibril's terrorist organization was made by Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman with the knowledge of the prime minister. The other ministers were not informed because in the defense minister's opinion it was purely operational.

The exchange this morning took place under the auspices of the Red Cross in a remote corner of Geneva Airport. It has been learned that Avraham 'Amram was flown from Damascus on a Bulgarian plane.

The terrorists, who were flown over from Israel were put aboard the plane and they will be flown to Tripoli, the capital of Libya. Journalists were not permitted to approach the site.

Protest Over Exchange

TA142057 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Mar 79 TA

[Text] Likud MK Menahem Savidor today submitted an urgent motion for the Knesset agenda, demanding that the issue of the release of 76 terrorists and murderers in return for one Israeli soldier be brought up. Mr Savidor claims that this is submission to the PLO and that this constitutes a dangerous precedent.

Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman said this evening in reply to a question that each case of releasing prisoners is studied carefully and that it cannot be regarded as a precedent. Hijacking an airplane with hostages is not like a soldier who fell into the hands of terrorists, the defense minister said, referring to the release of Avraham 'Amram and the exchange of 76 terrorists for him.

PROBLEM OF 'OFRA SETTLERS' ARMS BEING INVESTIGATED

TA141528 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 14 Mar 79 TA

[Text] The commander of Judaea and Samaria is now meeting with the Secretariat of the settlement 'Ofra in Samaria. It will be decided at the meeting what to do with the weapons in the possession of the 'Ofra people.

Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the settlers refused to hand over the weapons to an IDF unit, despite the fact that the military government had not intended to take the weapons, just to examine them. According to inhabitants of the settlement, the shots fired in Ramallah yesterday were only to test the weapons in their possession. In this context, the military government is investigating yesterday's events and the behavior of the 'Ofra people toward the inhabitants of Ramallah.

Settlers Uncooperative With Authorities

TA141706 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 14 Mar 79 TA

[Text] Inhabitants of 'Ofra, in Samaria, are refusing to help the investigations committee appointed by the military government following yesterday's events in Ramallah. Less than an hour ago the meeting between the commander of Judaea and Samaria, Brigadier General Ben-Eli'ezer, and the members of the settlement's secretariat ended. 'Ofra's representatives again announced their refusal to help the committee and hand over to the military government the weapons the settlement's inhabitants used yesterday in the streets of Ramallah.

Further Details

TA142011 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 14 Mar 79 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Excerpts] The commander of the Judaea and Samaria region, Brig Gen Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, today demanded that the inhabitants of 'Ofra give up their weapons. He promised that the IDF would see to their defense. According to him, a situation where inhabitants took the law into their own hands and went out to tear down barriers using live weapons was inconceivable.

The commander of Judaea and Samaria's efforts at persuasion have failed and the matter has been left without a decision. The IDF has not yet taken any action on the issue of the weapons and the matter will apparently be decided on the political level. At any rate, the IDF spokesman told us today: The army cannot accept a situation where civilians take the law into their own hands and set up militias and carry out actions. According to him, anybody who breaks the law can be put on trial.

DISTURBANCES CONTINUE IN WEST BANK; OFFICIALS DETAINED

TA150940 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 15 Mar 79 TA

[Text] There were further confrontations between demonstrators and security personnel in several towns in Judaea today. In a cable to the minister of defense, the Halhul Town Council protested the fact that the military governor had detained the members of the Council for 8 hours during the night in the military government compound, saying this was a blow to their honor.

Roadblock in Jordan Valley

TA150654 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 14 Mar 79 TA

[Text] The Jordan Valley Road, north of Jericho, near the village of 'Awja, was blocked this evening by a barricade of burning tires. Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports that the security forces removed the obstacles and opened the road and are now conducting searches to find those who blocked the road.

MORE REPORTAGE ON EVENTS, INCIDENTS OF 14 MARCH

Radio Commentary on U.S. 'Plots'

LD142144 [Editorial Report LD] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1010 GMT on 14 March carries a 20-minute talk by 'Ali Safa, who is not identified by a title but who is a relatively frequent contributor of commentaries on the radio. Safa begins by saying: "Having a servant in the shah, the United States had nothing to worry about in this region. However, this peace of mind did not last very long. Like a snowman, the shah melted under the hot sun of the people's revolution. With his departure, one of the fundamental foundations of the aggressive U.S. foreign policy in the region collapsed. The shah's regime was replaced by a government which has no intention of reconciliation with the interests of imperialism and Zionism.

"This swift change of political atmosphere culminated in a storm in the region which shook the traitorous leaders, and gave them food for thought about their ominous future. The storm also engulfed Europe and the United States, shaking them from their slumber and throwing their calculations, analyses and predictions into chaos. For a time, they busied themselves discussing the issue and shouting the question as to who had lost Iran."

After quoting a verse from the Koran to the effect that when some people are suddenly faced with an event they become so apprehensive that they can neither find a solution nor have the time to do so, the commentator continues: "Imperialism and all of its agents became apprehensive and anxious. It was said that the servants had become disillusioned with the protection provided by the boss. It was said: What guarantee is there for the rest, considering that the United States discarded the shah like a dirty handkerchief? So, the Americans eventually managed to pull themselves together. They forgot their differences and began thinking about a solution. What they thought they should do initially was to raise the morale of the despondent agents to continue their services, to give them some sort of encouragement and to demonstrate that they would be protected. Meanwhile, Iran had to be warned to watch its actions and not do anything uncalled for. Consequently, Carter decided to visit the Middle East--Israel and Egypt--and entrusted to his servants the tasks which remained unfinished with the shah's departure. He wanted to play up to them and assure them of his protection, and then issue new instructions about crushing the revolution and the popular movement in the region, especially with regard to Iran's revolution which is still inexperienced and suffers from certain weaknesses."

After quoting a verse from the Koran about collusion between the unfaithful and the enemies, Safa adds: "It was in this context that America dispatched its aircraft carrier, a gigantic mobile base, to Iranian waters, thus both showing its teeth and claws and assuring its servants. Furthermore, and what is most important of all, America is hatching plots to crush Iran's revolution.

"Hani Al-Hasan has every right to warn that Carter wants to mobilize a counterrevolution against the Iranian nation. How is this to be carried out? In two ways. Hani Al-Hasan himself points out these two ways as follows: By creating the movements of separatism, as well as by creating and spreading tension among the Iranian people. [Words indistinct] which imperialism is presently displaying and is turning against our revolution in recent days has created so much noise that it could not go unnoticed by anybody.

"The natural and logical demands of the masses for cultural autonomy, such as freedom to use their local languages, culture and religion, which were suppressed by the anti-people regime of the shah, are portrayed by the United States as demands and calls for separatism. Likewise, by its flagrant secret interference among these masses, it tries to shift their healthy and logical demands onto the wrong road. The United States is unaware of the fact that all the peoples of this land are familiar with their long-standing enemy, and they know that they all have a common destiny. This destiny consists of unity which will eventually lead to a bright conclusion. Separation will lead to nothing else but being torn apart by this bloodthirsty wolf of imperialism. Our people are sufficiently aware to realize that the oppressed nations of the world know that their road to salvation from the giant of imperialism consists of unity and togetherness. From which trumpet, then, are these notes of separatism being heard?

"Hani al-Hasan says that the fate of the Iranian people is bound to the destiny of the Palestinians. Indeed, not only is our destiny tied to the destiny of Palestinians, but also to the fate of all the oppressed peoples of the Middle East region--with Arabs, with Turks, with [word indistinct]. We are destined to either succeed together or be defeated together. Why should there be room for success of separation and division among brothers who are all people of one nation and share a common past history and many common interests?"

The commentator continues to describe the second method by which the United States is trying to mobilize and create counterrevolutionary forces: "The second way which we have also been witnessing these days--I hope we will continue to be alert so that we will not witness similar cases in the future--is the question of women's veils, which the United States is making a big noise about out of all proportion. With the help of their agents and at the instigation of uninformed elements, they have tried to create pessimism among various factions and set them against one another. Once again, the perception and intelligence of the people has come to their rescue. The noise has subsided, and what the satan of imperialism had wished for did not materialize.

"It is obvious that this will not be the last plot and effort of imperialism to create division and crush our revolution. It will mobilize all its known and unknown elements and agents who exist throughout the country, and will once again create traps for the revolution. But our people will crush all these plots with awareness and intelligence, for they have seen the ways of their victory and they know that the enemy is on the verge of defeat. It is our duty to better recognize our enemy, and to learn about its hostility and the reasons for its antagonism against us. Without being aware of these problems, we will not be able to predict imperialism's plots and thus neutralize them. We must recognize imperialism, this thousand-faced satan of our times. We must unmask all of these faces one by one. We must know what imperialism means. It is an element of a battle in which we have, willy nilly, become involved--the battle against imperialism. With the help of God, we will try in the next few days, in the course of these programs, to give you as much information as possible on this subject: colonialism and imperialism."

Oil, Gas Workers' Declaration

LD141224 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Three thousand of the employees of the oil and gas industry in Agha Jari, Miyankuh and Omidiyeh have declared their readiness to vote for an Islamic republic by publishing a declaration, the text of which reads:

We, the workers of the oil and gas industry in Agha Jari, Miyankuh and Omidiyeh who went on strike at the order of our leader Imam Khomeyni, and who cut out the veins of imperialism and toppled the palace of monarchical tyranny and absolutism in our beloved country, now decisively vote, in line with our other compatriots and in harmony with the nation's leader, for an Islamic republic. This declaration has been submitted to Iran's Islamic revolutionary leader Imam Khomeyni and Engineer Mehdi Bazargan, prime minister of the Provisional Revolutionary Government, in the form of a 5-meter long petition with at least 30,000 [as heard] signatures.

Turkish Statement on CENTO

LD141346 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 14 Mar 79 LD

[Excerpt] According to the Turkish Foreign Ministry, the decision by Iran and Pakistan to pull out of CENTO will mean the end of CENTO's existence. With Iran and Pakistan's withdrawal from CENTO, only Turkey and Britain remain as members of the pact.

Gas Workers Await Orders

DO141750 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 14 Mar 79 DO

[Text] Today an announcement was issued by the committee of representatives selected by the workers in gas collection and refinery affairs in Agha Jari. It was stated in this announcement that if at any time the revolutionary government should issue an order for the production of gas, that order will be fulfilled without hesitation. Any rumors suggesting problems with the workers of this company concerning the delivery of gas are vigorously denied.

Petrochemical Director's Activities

DO141730 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 14 Mar 79 DO

[Summary] Engineer (Abidi), the general director of Iranian petrochemicals, has come to Bandar Shahpur as a part of an inspection tour. Yesterday he delivered a detailed address to the workers in the petrochemical industry of Bandar Shahpur, in which he described the achievements of the Islamic revolution. In discussing the needs of the petrochemical workers, Engineer (Abidi) said that: "Your requests are reasonable, but it will take time to achieve what you want. Revolutionary patience will be needed by us all." "Mr (Abidi) also spoke to Japanese experts in Bandar Shahpur about petrochemical and planning matters." Tomorrow, he will probably visit the petrochemical facilities of Abadan and Kharg Island.

Tabriz University

DO141813 Tabriz Domestic Service in Persian 1529 GMT 14 Mar 79 DO

[Text] Please listen to an announcement by the national Iranian students organization located in Tabriz: All members of the learned body [hayat-e 'elmi] of the University of Tabriz are invited to gather tomorrow morning at 1030, 24 Essand [15 March], in order to make decisions concerning the administration of the university. The meeting will take place in the hall of the school of agriculture.

Tabriz Taxi Drivers

DO141826 Tabriz Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 14 Mar 79 DO

[Text] Listen to an announcement from the taxi drivers of Tabriz: Owners and drivers of taxis are requested to be present in the (Park-e Shemal) on Friday from 1100 to 1300 in order to select their representatives to the taxi drivers' unions.

Military Theatrical Presentation

DO141844 Tabriz Domestic Service in Persian 1531 GMT 14 Mar 79 DO

[Text] The soldiers of the Iranian revolution, with the assistance of a learned group of artists, will present the play "martyrdom" for 2 days on Thursday and Friday, the 24th and 25th of Esfand [15 and 16 March], in the Tabriz base amphitheater. The personnel of the ground forces are invited to see this play which will be presented 3 times on Thursday and on Friday beginning at 1400.

Shiraz Education Department

DO141855 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1546 GMT 14 Mar 79 DO

[Summary] "Dear listerners, you are hearing my voice from Shiraz, the radio of the Islamic revolution of Fars. Please listen to an announcement from the general department of education and training: In the name of the Almighty: There have been some uncoordinated programs taking place in the facilities of the general department of education and training." They have done harm to the course of the revolution." Consequently, only activities sanctioned by this department should be participated in by the public.

[Signed] General department of education and training of Fars Province, supervisory group for revolutionary affairs.

Representative to Gorgan

LD150026 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Mr 'Abbas Radnia was today appointed by Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan as the government's special representative in Gorgan. The text of Mr Bazargan's letter is as follows: Mr 'Abbas Radnia: Your Excellency, as the government's special representative, you are delegated, together with the representatives who will be appointed by the army staff, gendarmerie and the police, to travel to Gorgan as soon as possible and investigate the conditions and difficulties which have come about in Gobad-e Kavuz and in other places according to reports in hand, to attend to the problems and demands of the esteemed inhabitants of these areas; and to take the necessary steps, as far as they are possible and within the regulations of the public policy of the provisional government, and report the results.

[Signed] Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan.

Agreements With U.S. Institute Abrogated

LD150038 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2230 GMT 14 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Iran has abrogated two agreements with a U.S. planning research institute, which would have brought this institute some $30 million in profits within the next 4 years.

This was announced by the U.S. planning research institute. The agreements included consultancy services in construction management, whereby port facilities were to have been created in Chahbahar and Bandar 'Abbas.

Japanese Oil-Purchase Agreement

LD150034 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2230 GMT 14 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The Japanese Mitsui Company has signed an oil purchase agreement with Iran at reasonable prices. The duration of this agreement has been specified as from April to December in the current year on the Gregorian Calendar. On the basis of this agreement, Mitsui will receive 150,000 barrels of oil from Iran per day. According to Japanese petroleum quarters, other Japanese companies have signed agreements on oil purchases from Iran. The price of delivered oil will be determined following the OPEC meeting which is scheduled for 26 March.

ELF Message for Khomeyni

LD150044 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2230 GMT 14 Mar 79 LD

[Text] 'Abdullah Sulayman, chairman of the ELF Foreign Relations Bureau, left Damascus for Tehran today. Sulayman, who had stopped over in Syria for the past few days, is carrying a message from Ahmad Nasir, chairman of the ELF Revolutionary Council of the Eritrean Liberation Front, to the Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Iranian Islamic revolution. The Eritrean agency reported that the message is connected with the relations between the Iranian and Eritrean revolutions.

REPORTAGE ON EVENTS, INCIDENTS OF 15 MARCH

Copper Company Director

LD151014 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 15 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The chairman of the board of governors and managing director of the national Iranian copper industries company has said: Should foreign specialists be needed for the [word indistinct] and utilization of copper resources, they will only act as advisers.

Property of Shah's Family

LD151024 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 15 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The head of the committee investigating the wealth of the family of the former shah has reported: The wealth belonging to the former shah's family is incredible. Their properties and assets are spread all over the country.

Mohammad Hoveyda, who is in no way related to the former prime minister, has said: We receive reports every day that other assets belonging to the former shah's family have been found in the country's various nooks and crannies. He said: A 1000 hectare piece of property was recently discovered near Qazvin, which belongs to Shams, the sister of the former shah. Hoveyda said: The piece of property includes 24 luxury villas, and its apple orchards alone are worth 100 million rials.

March Denied

LD152006 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0830 GMT 15 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Following repeated inquiries from the central committee pertaining to the march this afternoon, we wish to bring to the attention of all brothers and sisters that the clergy and the Islamic Revolution Committee have not called for any marches whatsoever to take place today.

FOREIGN MINISTER TENDERS RESIGNATION TO BAZARGAN

NC141652 Paris AFP in English 1648 GMT 14 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Tehran, March 14 (AFP)--Foreign Minister Karim Sanjabi has tendered his resignation to Premier Mehdi Bazargan, an informed source said today. It was not known whether the resignation had been accepted.

TEHRAN PAPER SAYS 250 DETAINEES RELEASED ON BAIL

JN141918 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Tehran, 14 March--It was announced here today that 250 persons accused of cooperating with the previous regime and arrested during the last 2 weeks have been released. Reporting this, the ETTELA'AT evening newspaper says these persons were released on bail pending a final decision. It will be recalled that 243 detainees were set free on 24 February for lack of evidence. Khomeyni's sources say that the remaining number of detainees amounts to 900 persons.

AFGHANISTAN

AMIN INTERVIEWED BY DER SPIEGEL CORRESPONDENT

Part I

BK111537 Kabul in English to South Asia 1400 GMT 10 Mar 79 BK

[First installment of "text" of interview of Foreign Minister Hafizollah Amin by (Gerhard Manford), correspondent of the West German DER SPIEGEL at the People's House in Kabul on 8 March--read by announcer]

[Text] Question: Esteemed Vice Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs, I want to ask how are you evaluating the future of cooperation between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] and relations between Afghanistan and Germany as a whole?

Answer: We are greatly interested in the future of cooperation between the DRA and the FRG. We want that friendly relations between our two countries further develop and that the assistance (?parts) of the FRG in the development plan of the DRA, which is well in conformity with the interests and friendly relations between the peoples of the two countries, be expanded as far as possible.

Question: It is possible for you to give information about the new internal policy of Afghanistan, social considerations and its projects?

Answer: With the victory of the victorious Sawr Revolution the workers' state was established in Afghanistan and that all moral and material assets of the country belonged to the toilers. Every citizen of Afghanistan is fully secured and free to embark on all private undertakings which will be in conformity with the aspirations of the Sawr Revolution and the grants are being provided at the highest level to political activity to all the toiling people of our country through the Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan, trade unions, professional associations, cooperatives, assistance fund, committees for the defense of the revolution and their like. The distribution of land to landless peasants and small landholders is taking place rapidly.

Our people are taking part in the work of the development projects with great interest and sincerity. The culture of all the nationalities of Afghanistan is rapidly being blossomed and all nationalities are taking part as equal and fraternal nationalities in the construction of their beloved country. The possibility of education is being vastly provided for every child to learn in his mother tongue and all the valorous and noble toilers of the country are working with great love and affection and profound class consciousness for the progress of their beloved country--Afghanistan.

Question: If you would please say something about the agricultural duties and especially the economy--any difficulties as well as the means for combatting them?

Answer: We all know that with the victory of the Sawr Revolution our toiling people were liberated from the painful strain of the feudalistic regime and alongside other most (?striving) people of the world the healthy order was established in this country, too, and they are with great endeavors compensating for the economic backwardness which was bequested by those feudalistic despots. Obviously in our revolutionary strife we are facing some difficulties in the technical-agricultural area which, with the feeling of the patriotism and readiness for rendering of every sacrifice on the part of our heroic countrymen for the development of their beloved country, we are fighting these difficulties and it is doubtless that the victory belongs to our people.

Question: Esteemed Vice Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs, let me ask you: How are you explaining the nonalinement policy of Afghanistan as a member country of the Islamic world?

Answer: We have said many times and our true stand is well known to both our friends and our enemies that we are following the policy of nonalinement with profound respect for the high values of sacred faith of Islam and strong interest in deep and close friendship with the Islamic states and want to participate actively and positively as far possible in this great movement which has direct relations with the interests of the people of the whole world and the world peace.

Question: Please mention something about the problems created by the antigovernment elements, both the right and the left.

Answer: In every country and workers' revolution, the right extremists and the so-called left extremists stand against the people's interest, which is quite natural and normal in every healthy revolution and any order which is being established to benefit the toilers. Fortunately, these enemies of the people have been so much isolated and hated that they cannot create any threat to our country's revolution. But the reactionary, imperialistic and left extremist sources talking jointly with these antirevolutionary and antitoiling people's interest elements came to their support. Our valorous and toiling people will need to face their enemies with determined precision so that they will wipe out anyone who would [words indistinct] the conspiracy of the foreign enemies of the country and who become their devoted hireling.

You see how those whose fathers were nurtured from the international and imperialistic reactionary forces and they themselves were also the devoted servants of the Farangi [West European colonialists] and who had deceived our people for many years, are being discovered rapidly today and how the Farangi and reactionary propaganda sources are weeping for them and publishing false news. With sufficient information and documents from all these conspiracies and with the support of our toiling people and with determination we are progressing ahead and constructing our beloved homeland.

Part II

BK120741 Kabul in English to South Asia 1400 GMT 11 Mar 79 BK

[Part II of Afghan Foreign Minister Hafizollah Amin 8 March interview with Mr (Gerhard Manford), correspondent DER SPIEGEL, in Kabul 8 March--read by announcer]

[Text] Question: Honorable Vice Premier and Foreign Minister, I would like to hear something from you about your relations with Pakistan, the (?so-called) revolutionary Muslim rebels in Afghanistan and the Pakhtoonistan question.

Answer: We have also said repeatedly in this connection that we have got sufficient documents proving the interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, participation in the conspiracies against our popular regime and the (?efforts) of former reactionaries and imperialist forces and countries and their collaborators. The anti-revolutionary peoples all over the world and (?force) of whose global alliance between [words indistinct] and our popular revolution is waged in various parts of the globe.

In connection with the national issue of the Pakhtoons and Baluchis, I would like to say that this is the only political difference we have with Pakistan. We are greatly interested in settling this through further fraternal negotiations, and the advantages of a rapid and extensive development of cordial and fraternal relations between the toiling peoples of the two nations is evident to all. Especially, we sincerely express the warm feelings of the toiling fraternal peoples of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Question: How would you describe the general outlines of Afghanistan's foreign policy and its special relationship with the Soviet Union?

Answer: It may be (?repetitious)to say that our foreign policy is [words indistinct] by nonalinement, a sincere loyalty to this movement, a far-reaching [word indistinct] for peace in the region and the world and taking a decisive stand against aggression wherever it may happen. Our relations with the Soviet Union are at a (?mature stage), yielding desirable peace for the fraternal peoples of our countries and all the toilers of the world.

Question: How do you explain Afghanistan's stand vis-a-vis the People's Republic of China?

Answer: We are interested in the continuation and development of (?our people's) friendship and cooperation with the People's Republic of China.

Question: How are your relations with the Palestine Liberation Organization and what is Afghanistan's stand vis-a-vis Egypt?

Answer: We have supported the rights of the people of Palestine everywhere with every possible means including their right to form an independent state and we will do so in the future. (?Thus far), we can conclude that the policy being pursued by Egypt in connection with the Camp David talks and negotiations concerning partial agreement would not lead to peace in the Middle East.

Question: Would the honorable vice premier and foreign minister possibly allow me to hear something about Iran, Khomeyni and the prospects of your future relationship?

Answer: We recognized the revolutionary provisional government in Iran. (?We wish success) for the development of friendship and fraternity between the peoples of Afghanistan and Iran. We are interested in the development of future relationships, friendship and fraternity between our people and those in that country. As our sovereign people with their faith (?conferred in) their popular revolution in Afghanistan established a popular proletarian system to protect their own interests as well as those of all (?foreigners) throughout the world, it cannot stand the least interference in the (?crisis) of aliens in any form or manner. Likewise we hope the people of Iran, too, will be immune to every kind of foreign interference.

[Question] Honorable Vice Premier and Foreign Minister,two important nations, Iran and China, are now forming the [words indistinct] of political crisis in the world. Iran is grappling with a feudal internal crisis and China is engaged in fighting against Vietnam. What is Afghanistan's [words indistinct]?

Answer: Since we are harboring good will for the peoples of Iran and China, we do not wish by any means to interfere in their internal affairs. Likewise we do not expect anyone else to interfere in our internal affairs and (?see no danger) threatening our country from this viewpoint. Our revolution was blessed with success on our own and we are not intending to export it to other countries. However, the impact and aspirations of a revolution do not remain confined to the borders of a country nor to [words indistinct].

Question: Ayatollah Khomeyni is travelling in the direction of Islamic movement and renovation in the political role of Islam. The Afghans are Muslim and so many of them are Shi'ite. (?Now) does this revolution by Khomeyni have any impact on Afghanistan?

Answer: The great April Revolution carried out with the [words indistinct] and respected by our people [words indistinct] for the reason that we have granted all the people freedom of worship. We take into consideration the religious feelings of our people and allow nobody to use religion as a mask against us whether from inside or outside the country. The warm feelings of patriotism of our people could not be affected through any factor from outside. Our (?sovereign) people with their own religious feelings comprise our noble patriots. The proletarian revolution is the most objective uprising in the history [words indistinct] the toilers and could not be influenced by other views.

Question: Sir, more than half a million Afghans are returning from Iran with the memory of the history of Islamic revolution still fresh in their minds. Could you imagine that the events in Iran would have their impact on Afghanistan?

Answer: The impact on Afghanistan's economy of events in Iran has been reflected through scarcity of petroleum that we used to import from Iran. A number of Afghans have also welcomed in Iran the fruits of April Revolution and the proletarian uprising. It had an impact on toilers both inside and outside Afghanistan. The April Revolution has been supported by our people and each Afghan at home and abroad. They are (?gratified) by the great changes in this country. Those who return to Afghanistan will find it a land of their (?choice).

The (?variations) of the proletarian revolution dazzle every other way of thinking. The freedom of the toilers in Afghanistan reminds every[words indistinct] impact among our toiling people. The popular revolution in Afghanistan, brought to victory under the leadership of PDP and at the instruction of our great leader, general secretary of the Central Committee of the PDP, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the DRA, Nur Mohammad Taraki, is the most progressive uprising in history both in form and in nature. It belongs not only to the toilers of Afghanistan but also to those in the region and the world at large. This is the truth.

The people of Afghanistan harbor fraternal feelings toward the people of Iran. The people of Afghanistan never wish to harm the people of Iran. We are sure that the toiling people of Iran are realizing their feelings. They also wish to be on fraternal terms with our toilers and we are hoping that the government of Iran has also realized these popular feelings in our country.

The Afghan workers have worked side by side with the Iranian laborers during the past few years to build Iran. The Afghans have created no problems for Iran. All the problems in Iran were of their own making and their own internal affairs.

Question: Another ciritcal point is Indochina. Vietnam, which is now invaded by China enjoys material and moral support extended by your northern neighbor and friend, the Soviet Union. Does it signify the end of the nonalined movement?

Answer: This is not the end of the nonalined movement. It in fact strengthens nonalinement. The support of socialist nations to Vietnam is not something new. There are many similarities between the principal policies of the socialist countries and those of the nonalined movement, and the socialist countries have always backed the nonalined movement.

Question: Honorable Vice Premier and Foreign Minister, your country was, under the monarchical regime, committed to nonalinement. The former prime minister and your political foe, Daud, represented Afghanistan at the Bandung conference. Do you (?still advocate) the nonalinement policy?

Answer: In our opinion the past regime did not really practice the nonalinement policy, as it was alined with imperialism. But we sincerely follow the nonalinement policy and actively practice and support it.

Question: You have recently said that the Soviet Union is leading the nonalined movement [words indistinct] does not mean preference of one group of powers to any other.

Answer: I have never said this--that the Soviet Union is the leader of the nonalined movement. It is rather a loyal friend of the nonalined movement.

Question: Respected Sir, Afghanistan and the Soviet Union are having traditional relations. I would like to ask you if with coming into power by your party, if any change has occurred in these ties?

Answer: The victory of the PDP has further strengthened our relations. Afghan-Soviet relations have successfully stood the test of history during the past 50 years and reached a mature state after the great April revolution. This has been amply reflected in the treaty of friendship and good neighborliness recently signed between the leaders of both countries.

Question: Sir, could one possibily compare your relations with the Soviet Union with those existing between the Soviet Union and Finland? Or that there exists more original similarity between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union like similarity in social beliefs?

Answer: We believe that our relations are smoother. There is a popular regime in power in Afghanistan and the PDP--the vanguard of the working class (?which holds) political power--and the (?bonds) of the people of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union overlap from the viewpoint of our struggle.

Question: Your friendship with the Soviet Union is growing. With mutual cooperation between the two countries being strong [words inidistinct] do you envisage Afghanistan's membership in the COMECON?

Answer: It is true that our relations are growing; especially we are having widespread ties in the technological, scientific, economic and cultural fields which are being developed. Afghanistan is forging ahead toward the revolutionary stage reached by the Soviet Union. The government in Afghanistan will resort to any action that may be economically beneficial to the future of Afghanistan. At the present we do not have a specific plan, but our country will remain a member of the nonalined movement.

Question: As I have understood, you have (?forecast) a socialistic future for your country whose attainment has various ways. For instance, different approaches have been resorted to by countries like the Soviet Union, China, Yugoslavia, Cuba, Vietnam, etc. Which of these would you prefer?

Answer: As our revolution was a typically Afghan uprising, we all wish to have [words indistinct] naturally in accord with the aspirations and interests of the toiling people of Afghanistan.

Question: After your party gained political power, you declared that your relations with other people would be proportionate to the volume of their aid to overcome your underdevelopment. But now, with the passage of hardly a year, Soviet influence in your country is increasing. What is the policy pursued by other countries in this connection [words indistinct]?

Answer: I do not agree at all with the term Soviet influence in Afghanistan. It would be better for me to call it Soviet friendly cooperation without any strings attached. I must add that we have not been disappointed with other countries. We hope other nations of the world, too, will cooperate with us and help us in building our country.

Question: Despite difference in political attitudes, the Federal Republic of Germany is continuing its cooperation program with Afghanistan [words indistinct] credit which are extended to Afghanistan. [Words indistinct] development aid to Afghanistan can (?flow) at the rate of the two superpowers. Are you satisfied with that country's conduct and do you expect the FRG Government should take a greater share in your economic plan?

Answer: We are grateful to the FRG for its participation in financing our development plan. But due to our interest in developing friendly relations with that country, we are not satisfied with the present volume of their aid, for the FRG has the means to help us more. (?Our expectations are greater). The people of Afghanistan harbor good feelings toward the people of the FRG and we are having longstanding friendly ties and cooperation.

REBEL FRONT ISSUES STATEMENT ON FIGHTING

OW141830 Paris AFP in English 1751 GMT 14 Mar 79 OW

[Text] Peshawar, North Pakistan, 14 Mar (AFP)--Afghan Government planes have killed numerous women and children in strikes against Moslem rebels in Eastern Afghanistan, the rebel National Liberation Front said in a statement here today. The attacks that started on Monday were centered on the villages of Dari Khil and Menzai, the front said. According to the statement, rebel activity that had been confined to Konar Province in the north-east had spread to several other Afghan provinces, following the front's call for a holy war. In Paktia Province, in the east, the rebels captured a police station and were fighting along an 80 kms (48 mile) front between Seto Kandaw and Nader Shakaut, two villages they controlled, it said. The government had sent in 15 aircraft after the rebels cut off roads and communications links with the area preventing government reinforcements getting through, it added. The front also claimed to have surrounded Chigha Sarai, capital of Konar Province, and forced a government brigade of about 900 men, together with their commander, to surrender near Barikot on the border with Pakistan. A front spokesman said it was difficult to assess how the fighting was going because of the distances involved and he added that rebels had been ordered to act independently. Fighting was taking place in Helmad Province in the southwest heart province near the border with Iran, Uruzgan in the centre of the country and Samangan in the north, he added. Observers in Islamabad noted that divisions between different Islamic groups fighting [words indistinct].

INDIA

REPORTAGE ON VISIT OF USSR PREMIER KOSYGIN

Agreements Signed

BK141326 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Mar 79 BK

[Text] In New Delhi today, India and the Soviet Union signed four agreements, including one on a 10 to 15 year long term program of economic, scientific and technical cooperation. The two countries also signed a protocol under which the Soviet Union will give to the state farm in Suratgarh a large number of farm machinery and motor vehicles. The other three agreements relate to cooperation in the fields of science and health care, the supply of 600,000 tons of crude oil by the Soviet Union in exchange for Indian rice, and cultural exchanges for 1979 and 1980.

Immediately after signing the agreement, the Soviet prime minister, Mr Kosygin, told newsmen that his talks in New Delhi were very successful. He said that we have agreed upon all subjects. We have exchanged views with the prime minister, Mr Morarji Desai, on a number of questions, bearing in mind that both countries should work to strengthen peace throughout the world. Mr Kosygin said that we had no differences on any subject.

Mr Morarji Desai said that he completely endorses what Mr Kosygin said. If he says that the talks have been successful, they have been more than successful, he remarked. The external affairs minister, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, said there was complete understanding between the two sides on the question of Vietnam. Both countries hold the view that there should be complete and unconditional withdrawal by China from Vietnam.

Details of Agreements

BK150956 Delhi ISI in English 0833 GMT 15 Mar 79 BK

[Text] Four wide-ranging agreements were signed in New Delhi on 14 March between India and the Soviet Union.

A major agreement on cooperation in the economic, trade, scientific and technical fields, which gives a long-term perspective of 10 to 15 years to the economic and trade relations between the two countries, was among the documents signed by visiting Soviet Prime Minister Aleksey Kosygin and Prime Minister Morarji Desai, reports PTI.

The other documents were a 5-year agreement on cooperation in the field of medical science and health care, one on the supply of 600,000 tonnes of Soviet crude in exchange for Indian rice, and a 2 year cultural agreement.

The 10-15 year programme of economic, scientific and technical cooperation will "determine specific and perspective directions, projects and forms of mutually beneficial economic, trade, scientific and technical cooperation."

The programme, first mooted during Desai's Soviet visit in October 1977, comprises seven sections covering, among other things, construction of industrial and other projects in India, including those on a compensation basis. It also provides for the improvement of the work of Soviet-aided projects already in operation in India, cooperation in designing and construction and specialization, trade, science and technology and planning.

Under the economic cooperation programme the Bhilai and Bokaro steel plants would be expanded to reach a capacity of 4 million tonnes each annually. Another addition to the cooperation in ferrous metallurgy would be the Vishakapatnam steel plant. The two sides will also explore the possibilities of cooperation in the design and construction of new iron and steel plants, ferro-vanadium and other ferro alloys projects.

The nonferrous metallurgy, an alumina plant with a 600,000-800,000 tonnes capacity, is proposed to be set up in Andhra Pradesh on compensation basis.

Under the agreement cooperation in oil exploration, production and refining will be increased considerably. Apart from introducing mechanised methods of oil production, a long term techno-economic perspective plan--1981-1990--will be prepared for the exploration and exploitation of on-land oil and natural gas reserves in India.

Proposals for cooperation in inland fisheries, transport and communications, geology and wood, pulp and paper, pharmaceuticals and building materials industries are also included in the agreement.

The 5-year agreement on cooperation in the field of medical science and health care which was signed by the two prime ministers themselves outlines specific areas of cooperation based on the experience obtained by the two sides from earlier contacts. The two countries have agreed on polling efforts in combating the more widespread and injurious diseases.

Under the cultural agreement for 1979 and 1980 the Soviet Union will send to India two ballet troupes and a variety orchestra. India will send two performing troupes and organise an exhibition of handicrafts and jewellery. The two countries will exchange soloists, musicologists, composers, artists, specialists in handicrafts, theatre workers, cultural workers and writers. The agreement covers fields like science and education, education in public health and social welfare, art and culture, cinema, TV, radio, press and sports.

The cultural exchange programme provided for an exchange of sports teams in view of the 1980 Olympics in Moscow and an exchange of delegations of children in the International Year of the Child.

The agreement for the supply of 600,000 tonnes of crude oil by the Soviet Union in return for Indian rice was signed by officials on both sides.

According to a protocol signed by Agriculture and Irrigation Minister S. S. Barnawa and the Chairman of the Soviet State Committee of Foreign Economic Relations S.A. Shachkov, the Soviet Union will supply agricultural machines and motor vehicles for the modernisation of the Suratgarh state farm in Rajasthan as a gift.

Kosygin Hosts Farewell Banquet

BK150352 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Mar 79 BK

[Text] Soviet Prime Minister Kosygin is leaving New Delhi for Moscow this morning at the end of his weeklong visit to India. Mr Kosygin gave a reception in honor of Prime Minister Morarji Desai in New Delhi last night. Several union ministers, the Congress-I president, Mrs Gandhi, MP's and Senior officials were among those who attended the reception which was held in the Soviet Embassy.

Kosygin Comments, Ends Visit

BK150901 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Mar 79 BK

[Text] The Soviet prime minister, Mr Aleksey Kosygin, has reaffirmed that Indo-Soviet relations are very good and they will continue to be so for long. He was talking to newsmen at the New Delhi airport before his departure for Moscow today after a week-long visit to India. Mr Kosygin said his talks with the Indian leaders confirmed the strong ties between the two countries.

In reply to a question, he said that the agreements we have signed are businesslike and constructive. Their implementation by both sides would further strengthen the economic and political relations between the Soviet Union and India. He said on our part, we will do the utmost to promote this. Mr Kosygin also thanked the Indian press and the publicity media for the objective reporting of his visit.

Later, Mr Kosygin left New Delhi for Moscow. He was seen off at the airport among others by the prime minister, the two deputy prime ministers, other cabinet minister and diplomats. An interservices guard of honor was presented to him.

After Mr Kosygin's departure, Mr Morarji Desai told the AIR newsreel that our friendship with the Soviet Union is firm. About the Indo-Soviet agreements signed yesterday, Mr Desai said we agreed on most of the issues. Answering questions from newsmen, the external affairs minister, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, said that the Soviet Union occupies an important position in our relationship [as heard]. Mr Vajpayee said that during their discussions issues pertaining to China and Kampuchea also figured.

TIMES OF INDIA Commentary

BK150715 Hong Kong AFP in English 0614 GMT 14 Mar 79 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 15 Mar (AFP)--The TIMES OF INDIA commented today on the relations between India and the Soviet Union at the end of Premier Aleksey Kosygin's six-day visit to India.

"It is crystal clear," the Indian daily said, "that the Indian Government does not feel called upon to go along with the Soviet Union in lambasting China in most virulent terms. It is appalled at the Chinese attack on Vietnam. But it prefers to use relatively mild language to express its concern.

"It can, of course, be argued with justification that this is a difference of style and not of substance. For New Delhi's own condemnation of China's aggression on Vietnam has been unqualified.

"Nothing would have pleased the Russians more than early recognition by this country of the Hanoi-backed Heng Samrin regime in Kampuchea (Cambodia).... But New Delhi refuses to be hustled because it cannot abandon the yardsticks it has always employed in similar circumstances. And these make early recognition difficult because not only are Vietnamese troops still present in Kampuchea but the situation on the ground is far from clear", notes the Indian newspaper.

The editorial continues: "India has got to give due weight to not only the advance of the Soviet friends but also to that of friendly non-aligned nations, particularly the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries which are most directly affected by the events in Indochina.

The complexity of the ASEAN reaction--Thailand's support to the Pol Pot guerrillas has to be weighed against Mr. Kukrit Pramot's blunt statement that his country does not want China to 'strut around the region either as policeman or as a bandit'--only adds to the need for caution.

"Of much greater significance is the Russian willingness promptly to give this country an additional 600,000 tonnes of crude oil in return for fine rice which will be shipped directly to Vietnam. ....The Soviet gesture is notable because it, too, is also feeling the pinch of the reduction in Iran's oil output because the supplies of Iranian natural gas to it have stopped while the demands on its oil and gas resources from its East European allies have increased."

VAJPAYEE INTERVIEWED ON TERRITORIAL DISPUTE WITH PRC

BK150344 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Mar 79 BK

[Text] The external affairs minister has declared that the question of surrendering Indian territory in any border settlement with China does not arise. In an interview with a Calcutta weekly, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee said the Janata government is committed to the 1962 resolution of Parliament in this regard. Asked whether he thought that if India does not move an inch from that resolution and unless there was no flexibility could he ever solve the problem, Mr Vajpayee replied that he will discuss the problem when the right stage comes.

Mr Vajpayee said that as a result to his visit to China there was mutual appreciation of the fact that the boundary question is fundamental to the future relations between the two countries.

About the timing of his visit to China, the external affairs minister said that having postponed once he thought it was proper to do this time. The dates of the postponed visit were announced long before the developments in Kampuchea. India has been receiving reports about the Sino-Vietnam crisis and has taken note of the statement made by Mr Deng Xiaoping while he was in the United States.

The interviewer pointed that the Chinese never missed any opportunity to belittle India. He cited Mr Deng's statement in an interview with the Japanese news agency that Vietnam is stronger than India. Mr Vajpayee said that India had protested against that statement.

Mr Vajpayee vehemently denied that there is any pro-American tilt in India's foreign policy. Asked about the chances of the United States again arming Pakistan, Mr Vajpayee said that the United States must learn the lessons of recent history that supply of arms to any country does harm to it, to the U.S. interest and to the countries of the region.

U.S. PLANS TO SET UP 'FIFTH FLEET' IN INDIAN OCEAN

BK141335 Delhi PATRIOT in English 11 Mar 79 p 2 BK

[Editorial: "Fifth Fleet"]

[Text] While the Beijing warlord is making a reluctant retreat his senior ally is actively considering a naval advance in the Indian Ocean area for future operations. In the years following the U.S. debacle in Indochina, the Pentagon preferred to keep a low profile. It even agreed to a talk with the Soviet Union on limiting military activity in the Indian Ocean as an earnest of peaceful intentions. Soon, however, it reverted to its policy of assertive military display and broke off the talks unilaterally.

The upheaval in Iran and the fall of the subimperialist shah caused a total regression and Mr Jimmy Carter, the apostle of peace and human rights, resumed gunboat diplomacy in the name of vital American interests. It is now reported by the Voice of America and other news sources that the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Pentagon are planning to set up a permanent naval formation--named "Fifth Fleet"--in the Indian Ocean. The new fleet will form with the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean and the Seventh Fleet in the Pacific a strategic crescent to hold the entire Continent of Asia in a tight military embrace.

The specific purpose of the new fleet is supposed to be purely defensive: It will guard the oil supply routes from the Arab countries to the Far East and the Western countries. But the lie hidden in this claim was exposed in a U.S. Defence Department briefing itself when an official said that the deployment of warships led by the "Constellation" was not the beginning of the planned Fifth Fleet but a separate event "related to what is going on in Yemen and the Arabian Peninsula." Combining this disarming clarification with the fact that the "Constellation" began its journey from the distant Philippines in the south east, one cannot but infer that when the Fifth Fleet comes into existence it will not perform only guard duty for oil supply. Like the Seventh Fleet which released the "Constellation" to keep a baleful eye on South Yemen and the patriotic guerrillas in the north, the Fifth Fleet will with greater ease serve political purposes dear to the American heart, like providing support to reactionary regimes and interfering in the internal affairs of any country. The question of enlarging U.S. port facilities in Bahrain, Oman and Saudi Arabia is already under consideration in the context of the planned fleet, while the expansion and modernization of the Diego Garcia base has been circulating that Egypt and Israel may join to extend facilities in the Sinai ports.

It is worth recalling the commitment Mr Carter made in a foreign policy speech about three weeks ago: "In the Middle East, in Southeast Asia and elsewhere in the world we will stand by our friends--we will honour our commitments and we will protect the vital interests of the United States." One would like to add here that Mr Deng Xiaoping of Beijing will surely do the same and defend the Chinese vital interests, as he is doing in Vietnam. It will be the height of folly to ignore that the Chinese leaders have already announced that they have "common strategic interests" with the United States. The Fifth Fleet can become a tool to promote these common interests at the cost of peace and security of nations.

PAKISTAN

ZIAUL HAQ GIVES INTERVIEW TO SAUDI PAPER

LD141031 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 11 Mar 79 p 3 LD

[Interview granted by President Gen Mohammed Ziaul Haq of Pakistan to Iyad Madani, published in the English language newspaper SAUDI GAZETTE--place and date not given]

[Text] [Question] Some observers believe that the communist takeover of power in Afghanistan, the current situation in Iran and the political disturbances in Turkey are interconnected incidents whose aim is to undermine security in the area. What is your opinion on this subject?

[Answer] It is difficult to answer your question immediately, but it can be said that there appears to be a single pattern of events in the area.

If you examine this closely you find that there are problems from Morocco to Indonesia. I believe that President Jimmy Carter, as was clearly apparent from his meeting with PRC Vice Chairman Deng Xiaoping, has begun to realize that in this part of the world, which includes Pakistan and China, there is weakness and instability.

Pakistan believes that what has happened in Iran represents a healthy phenomenon because it is a revival of Islam, despite the fact that the situation has taken a somewhat different course. With regard to Afghanistan, the situation there is quite different. The present government came to power through a coup d'etat. We know that it was a leftist coup. We also know that they are communists and atheists. We hope that the situation will stabilize and that every country in the area will become strong and not weak vis-a-vis the others.

[Question] Despite the fact that Pakistan is an Islamic state and is opposed to communism, it is clear that the Afghan Muslim groups that are resisting and trying to change Taraki's government have expressed their dissatisfaction with the weak support they are getting from Pakistan.

[Answer] They are right in being dissatisfied. It is a fact that Pakistan wishes to help all the world's Muslim countries, but can we do so? Even Saudi Arabia with all its resources and great efforts cannot please everybody.

Second, there are doubts about the strength of what we called Islamic parties in Afghanistan. Third, they forget that we no longer live in the 1917 era when a tribesman on horseback took control of all the tribesmen, rode to Kabul, dethroned its king and installed himself as lord and master. This cannot happen these days as we are now in the 20th Century. Moreover, Afghanistan has obtained the full support of the Soviet Union, and its security entirely depends on the Soviets. In these circumstances, if Pakistan puts its finger in the fire it will get burned. Therefore, we provide aid within the limits of our resources and to an extent that does not threaten our security. There are now about 30,000 Afghan refugees in Pakistan. We have given them money as far as our financial resources allow. This is the best that Pakistan can do; it can do no more. I cannot arm them because I do not have sufficient arms for myself. Also, I am not rich and I cannot take part in the fighting with them and invade Afghanistan, because I know that the price would be high. Furthermore, I cannot do such things in isolation because Pakistan must obtain aid for itself from somewhere. If there are no other countries willing to take the initiative in such an adventure, how can Pakistan launch such an adventure?

[Question] The shah's downfall has prompted some U.S. policy planners to reappraise U.S. policy. Does this involve a U.S. suggestion that Pakistan should play a new role in the area?

[Answer] No, I do not believe so. With regard to the Arab Gulf we can detect the existence of a communist trend, which is a serious thing. Do you not believe that there is a need to adopt a common strategic policy between the Islamic states in the area in order to confront communism and other ambitions? I hope we can achieve this. We should learn some lessons from the so-called advanced countries. Look at the solidarity and the concerted efforts in the West--from the United States to Western Europe. They are all in harmony. There is the European Common Market and NATO. All the Western countries are engaged in promoting Western culture inside their countries and abroad.

In the part of the world in which we live there is an urgent need for coordination even if at least on the basis of Islam. There are now opportunities for bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the economic fields as well as in fields of defense production, agriculture and manpower.

[Question] What organizational shape should this coordination take?

[Answer] Let us begin on the basis of bilateral coordination, which could subsequently reach a level involving several countries. This is because in the Islamic world we find more than one competitor. Instead of creating new suspicions in the minds of Islamic countries by creating yet another organization, the best system for us would be the establishment of bilateral relations.

If it was up to Ziaul Haq, I would say: Let the Saudi Arabian Kingdom take the lead and I will follow. But there are some people who do not like the Saudi Arabian Kingdom and might ask why it should take the lead and why Ziaul Haq proposes the kingdom rather than such and such a country. We still find competitors, whether inside the Arab or the Islamic countries. I do not claim that the e is unity, but there probably is, which is the work of the enemies. [sentence as published]

[Question] Going back to the internal situation in Pakistan, we find in your statements references to people who have hidden interests and are trying to create problems and exploit the situation resulting from the trial of former Prime Minister Zulfiqar Bhutto. What are these interests and who represents them?

[Answer] They are a very small minority of leftists, communists and atheists, as well as some members of Bhutto's party. They are like the Awami Party members who claim to be socialists while being landlords. There are those who claim to be modern while they are an obstacle to modernization. They obtained money during Bhutto's 7-year rule. Therefore, they are the ones with hidden interests.

[Question] Who are the party leaders you are referring to?

[Answer] They are the ones who sucked the blood of the poor. Their claim was: "We will give you bread, clothing and homes." But they offered nothing. They do not care whether Pakistan survives or not, nor do they care if Pakistan's security is destroyed and its prestige lost. They are indifferent and dishonest. I warn them and I know all about them. If they try to do the same thing in the future I will come after them with an iron fist. I have so far been lenient with them.

[Question] Did the Pakistani Government not turn Bhutto's case into a political issue when it took certain measures such as closing the universities?

[Answer] No, the government did not do so. It was they who did. We had to be prepared, right from the day Bhutto was arrested on 18 September 1978. I did not say a single word but they said that the militarists had arrested Bhutto because he was the leader of the poor. We did not politicize the problem but it was they who did, to the extent that they compelled me to cancel the 1 October 1978 elections because the question had turned into a political problem. There are certain people among them who went among the students and workers in order to incite disturbances.

Now we have before us two choices: Either we give them an opportunity to create disturbances, since colleges, universities and schools are susceptible to incitement to trouble--and we cannot strike hard at the students because there will be reaction--or we can deny them this opportunity. We therefore estimated that prevention is better and, therefore, we closed the universities so that students will not gather. If a minority starts disturbances, the majority is affected, and this would lead to some people being hurt.

[Question] Some friends of Pakistan believe that the hidden interests will find a greater opportunity to create disturbances if Bhutto is executed. Do you agree with this?

[Answer] You mean that they will exploit his case? I would not say that. This is a difficult matter. Any other comment on my part would not be right because the case is still before the courts. I ask you not to touch on this subject as it is a matter that has not yet been decided. What I do or will do is something quite different. The moment the case is decided you may come and ask me and I will then answer you frankly.

[Question] Will elections be held this year, as has been decided?

[Answer] October 1979 is still the fixed date, but this date might be postponed till November.

[Question] At a time when Pakistan is busy reviving its adherence to Islamic laws, does the holding of elections mean that you have created direct suffrage and the right to vote for the young in accordance with Islamic principles?

[Answer] I have asked all the religious leaders--Mawlana Mutfi Mahmoud, Mawlana Nawazi and Sayyid Abdallah Mawdudi--I have asked them all and they answered that from an Islamic viewpoint elections under the present circumstances are legal. I said: So be it. Therefore, we must carry out this election. From my viewpoint, this is not Islamic because the system of political selection in the country is not Islamic; it leads to the emergence of rivals, recourse to daggers and division among Muslims, whereas Islam says that we must unite and the choosing of a leader must be carried out according to the Islamic method, that is consultation [shura]. I do not propose any particular system, but I always ask the religious leaders and we always follow their advice.

[Question] Recently you announced that the Pakistani National Alliance Party and the government are one and the same. In other words, there is complete cohesion between them. In view of the fact that the Alliance Party will take part in the elections, do you not think that your statements will give preference or unfair advantage to this party over other parties?

[Answer] I am quite frank. I do give it an advantage, which I believe is fair. I will not take part in the elections because I have no party. Therefore, I am out. I would like to say that the party that has an open mind, that has Islamic thoughts and whose followers like Islam and have Islam in their hearts, will be the party that will win. I agree with you that I am trying to help this party to win, but this help is not restricted to this party. I have asked all the parties, including the Awami Party, the Asghar Khan Party and the Mawlana (Muwarnir) Party to join the government and to help me. The moment we are ready, we will hold the elections.

Whoever wins will form the government. But since they have not accepted, they should not expect my support. It appears that the Alliance Party has weakened because of divisions, but I still insist that they have open minds and hearts and I am trying to help them gain great popularity so that when the elections take place the people will know them better than before. Before the elections, all the parties will be given freedom and it is up to the people to choose what they want.

[Question] How long will the election campaign last?

[Answer] We feel that 2 months will be quite enough. Anything longer would be fruitless.

[Question] Will all the political parties be allowed to use radio and television for election propaganda?

[Answer] I will give full facilities to all the parties and not just the Alliance Party alone.

[Question] It appears that you still doubt the ability of any political party to lead Pakistan. You said, for example, that there is a need for a constitutional role for the armed forces and that Pakistan might need an emergency law every 5 or 7 years. What exactly do you mean by this?

[Answer] I will explain it to you. In 1952 we were suffering from certain disturbances in Lahore and it was necessary to impose partial martial law. In 1958 we were under complete martial law in the era of Marshal Ayoub Khan, who ruled for 10 years. This was the golden era of Pakistan, we had an excellent army, economic development and industrial growth. This was the best period in Pakistan's history in 30 years. But what happened then? Disturbances occurred in 1968, 1969 and 1970. Elections were held and rule was given to the civilians. Pakistan became divided into two parts and Bhutto was the prime minister of this part, although he failed in the elections. In 1977 there were further disturbances. Bhutto rigged the elections and the people were against him. There was also an Islamic movement demanding Islamic laws for Pakistan. Now I have come in the third period of emergency laws. Another person will come in 2, 3, 4 or 5 years' time. If we have no system by which we can avoid emergency laws and arrangements, by which we have an institution like the army in the hands of the Pakistani president, through which he can overcome tension and avoid an emergency law--by which I mean constitutional role for the armed forces--if we do not have this system then I can assure you today in writing that in 2, or 5 or 10 years there will be an emergency law. This is something terrible. I believe that in order to encourage democracy in this country we must give the armed forces a constitutional role. It must be a limited role and not in the sense understood by politicians of the armed forces poised over their necks like a sword. I am against this and against the military becoming lords and masters of the situation. Under circumstances in which the country is in a state of crisis and an emergency situation, with the prime minister unable to administer the country's affairs, the Legislative Assembly divided and the president wanting to do something, then with the help of the army he can intervene between the parties, dissolve the Legislative Assembly for 2 or 3 months at most and then hold elections that will bring in a new government, after which the army will go back to its barracks.

[Question] Who would decide the need to do so?

[Answer] The head of state.

[Question] Do you believe that the Pakistani political leaders have failed and will once again fail in finding the desired leadership for the country?

[Answer] You are right. This, however, does not mean that I claim to be a man above all other men. I am an ordinary man, but in the past 30 years politicians have not all allowed democracy to be exercised in Pakistan as it should be. They did not purge the parties. There were political manipulations and political violence. There was no improvement until certain measures were taken. All my efforts are devoted to developing the political parties and creating responsible political leaders. The regime must enable capable men to play their role during the evaluation period.

[Question] Is all this to take place under army control?

[Answer] Of course.

[Question] In the special evaluation of Ayoub Khan's rule, it has been said that 22 families were in control of mo t of Pakistan's wealth. Bhutto then came with Islamic socialism which you said sucked the poors' blood. What solutions do you propose for economic development in Pakistan?

[Answer] The figure "22 families" was more propaganda than real in terms of wealth distribution. But Bhutto came and created the 23d family. All that he did was to create the Awami Party family which benefited by obtaining more land and acquiring more. It included industrialists who did nothing for the country. In a free country, the economy must be free and the government must fully support private ownership. We have had some improvement during the past 18 months in that production has increased by 9 percent from only 1 percent in the past 7 years.

[Question] Do you not believe that there is a contradiction between the principle of the freedom of the private sector and Islamic social justice?

[Answer] If a person realizes that his earnings are subject to a 2.5 percent Zakah [alms tax], this would mean a just distribution of wealth.

[Question] What about land ownership?

[Answer] We have not changed the laws. The maximum holding is 100 feddans. We can increase it or decrease it, but in fact we do not need to reduce this maximum. I must tell you that all small and big businessmen have come to me and asked for the Islamic laws to be applied. They said they are willing to pay the Zakah and any other taxes stipulated by Islamic laws. They asked me to issue the orders so that they can carry them out.

SRI LANKA

GOVERNMENT BANS POLITICAL DEMONSTRATIONS

BK181228 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 10 Mar 79 BK

[Text] The Sri Lanka Government has banned all political processions in the country with immediate effect. UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA], quoting police sources in Colombo, says that processions connected with religious rites will, however, be allowed.